

DENALI BOROUGH

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Clay Walker, Mayor

To: House Community and Regional Affairs Committee Co-Chair Rep. Sara Hannan
House Community and Regional Affairs Committee Co-Chair Rep. Calvin Shrage

Re: Testimony in support of HB 309

Co-Chairs Representatives Hannan and Shrage and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for your consideration of amendments to the APOC financial disclosure requirements. Alaska's constitution calls for "maximum local self-governance", a worthy goal. In order to achieve that goal, we need people to serve their various governing bodies – assemblies, councils, boards, and commissions. Alaska's smaller communities often find it challenging to fill those many seats. I hear from other municipalities that they routinely lose interested individuals due to the invasive and online financial reporting requirements of APOC, which is required by statute.

The Denali Borough does not have experience with the current onerous and online financial disclosures required through APOC, because when it was implemented in 2008, we opted out. At that time, the people of the Denali Borough voted to opt out and instead implement our own financial interest reporting requirement (from the state's 1999 version), which is simpler and not online.

I remember those deliberations in 2008 and am happy that we opted out, for it is hard enough to find dedicated individuals to fill our 27 effected seats from our population of under 2,000 people.

Please do favorably consider amendments which encourage, rather than discourage, public service.

Regards,

Clay

Clay Walker, Denali Borough Mayor

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