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Governor Mike Dunleavy
STATE OF ALASKA

February 14, 2023

The Honorable Gary Stevens
Senate President
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 111
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear President Stevens:

Under the authority of Article III, Section 18, of the Alaska Constitution, I am transmitting a bill authorizing pay for training and drill activities of members of the Alaska State Defense Force (ASDF).

The ASDF is a component of the organized militia of the state. The ASDF operates solely under the authority of the state government and provides valuable support to the Alaska National Guard in disaster response and rural Alaska operations. Currently, members of the ASDF do not receive compensation when ordered to active duty by the governor for the purposes of training and drill activities. However, the ASDF still regularly engages in drill and training for emergency response in a manner similar to the Alaska National Guard. This bill will authorize pay for training and drill activities of the ASDF when called to active service for those purposes by the governor.

Paid training will motivate current ASDF members and increase enlistment, especially in rural Alaska. This local emergency and disaster response will be particularly valuable because the ASDF can be immediately activated in remote parts of the state while awaiting mobilization of the Alaska National Guard.

I urge your prompt and favorable action on this measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mike Dunleavy".

Mike Dunleavy
Governor

Enclosure