

HB

207

CITY OF CORDOVA

Box 938

CORDOVA, ALASKA 99574

"The Friendly City"

Phone GA 4-3237
or GA 4-3238

March 11, 1971

The Honorable Mike Rose
Alaska State House of Representatives
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Re: HB 207

Dear Mike:

On February 22, 1971, you, along with co-sponsors Barber, Bowman, Bradner, Ferguson, Fischer, Hillstrand and Huber, introduced House Bill No. 207 which removes the present exemption of public utilities, in non-competing jurisdictions, from regulation by the Public Utilities Commission of the State of Alaska.

The City of Cordova, through the Cordova Public Utilities, supplies citizens both in and outside the City of Cordova, with water, electricity, and telephone service. The City does not compete with any other public or private operator and it appears that it would be many years before any other public or private utility would be interested in setting up competition with the City of Cordova.

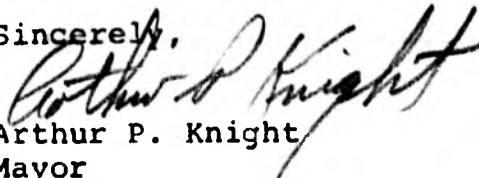
The citizens of Cordova elect annually members of the Cordova Public Utility Board which, along with the City Council, establishes rates, receives complaints, and takes actions upon those complaints. As added protection to the utility consumer, the full range of local and state wide courts are available should his particular complaint not be resolved to his satisfaction by the locally elected Board or Council.

There is no defensible argument to the concept that local non-competing public utilities should be regulated by a state Public Utilities Commission. The idea of the State interfering in the affairs of a local government, where that local government is not in conflict with any other local government or private utility, is completely contrary to the concept of "Home Rule" government. Further, regulation by the Alaska Public Utilities Commission can only provide an additional financial burden upon the local utility consumer -- a burden which is totally unnecessary.

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We urgently solicit your reconsideration of this bill and can only strongly encourage that its makers quit attempting to solve problems relating to competing jurisdictions by placing additional hardships upon local non-competing public utilities.

Sincerely,


Arthur P. Knight
Mayor

APK/d

cc: City Council
Local Government Committee, House of Representatives
Local Government Committee, Senate
The Honorable Robert H. Ziegler, Sr.
The Honorable Jan Koslosky, Alaska State Senate
The Honorable Robert Ditman, House of Representatives