

HB 15

CITY OF KOTZEBUE

P.O. BOX 46
KOTZEBUE, ALASKA 99752
907-442-3571

February 12, 1975

Rep. Sam Cotten, Chairman
House Community & Regional Affairs Committee
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Representative Cotten:

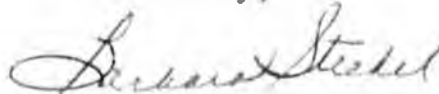
I am writing to you to express the very real interest our community has in seeing passage of H.B. 15 and H.B. 16 regarding an increase in shared revenue for fire protection and earmarking that revenue specifically for the fire service.

Over the past three years we have built a new two and a half bay fire station, designed and had delivered a new tracked 750 G.P.M. pumper/tanker, hired a paid Fire Chief and have just gotten our first paid fire-fighter under the PEP/CETA program. All of this has been done with local funds on a pay-as-you-go basis with our total expenditures currently exceeding \$140,000. This has also resulted in our fire insurance rating being lowered from a Class 10 city to a Class 8 city and a 25% reduction in insurance premiums.

The fire service is one of the few fields in municipal government where a hierarchy of support (both for funding and for logistical support) does not exist. There are no Federal agencies providing direct assistance in fire protection as say LEAA does for local police protection.

If we are to continue making the kind of strides we have achieved over the past few years, we must have adequate funding for such an effort. We like the idea of having to earmark the funding and the State has the right to expect that kind of cooperation in this field. We urge you and your committee members to seriously consider increasing the per capita revenue sharing to \$15 from the present \$5.

Sincerely,



Barbara Steckel
City Manager

BS:sh
cc: Committee members

"GATEWAY TO NORTHWEST ALASKA"

House Committee on
COMMUNITY & REGIONAL AFFAIRS

Meeting Minutes
May 5, 1975

Meeting was called to order at 9:00 to discuss HB 15, CSSB 43am.

Rep. Cotten	Gordon Brunton, Regional fire Chief
Rep. Freeman	Allen Judson, Ak. St. Firefighters Assoc.
Rep. Davis	Rep. Duncan, Sponsor
Rep. Hackney	Bill Hagby, Fire trainer
Barbara Englert Thomas, Staff	Don Berry, Municipal League
Andrea Guernsey, Staff	Jack Chenoweth, director, Local Gov't

ALLEN JUDSON

Mr. Judson said the Alaska State firefighters were in support of CSSB 43. Over the last three years fire money is being spent for other things. For example Hoonah has been using it for their generator problems. he read a letter from Dawson and Company stating that if the fire facilities across the State were upgraded it would reduce insurance rates. The fire underwriters grade each community for insurance premiums but the overall picture is taken statewide.

HOONAH

Hackney asked what sort of equipment Hoonah has? and what their fire loss is? They have a 500 gal pumper but don't know the fire loss in dollars. Rep. Hackney thinks the people in the communities should set the priorities instead of having the State step in and say how to spend the money. Cotten pointed out that SB 43 says the money could be spent elsewhere if the community can show adequate fire protection. Mr. Brunton said Hoonah has 5-10 working fires each year. 80% of these are total losses. This is typical of the rest of AK. in that it is double that of the rest of the U.S. Rep. Freeman asked if Hoonah had a tax base? They have sales tax. He also asked what the city council thought. Judson said they were opposed to the bill because they want to use the money for the electrical system. Cotten said the community had to make its priorities.

M.L. POSITION

Freeman asked Mr. Berry for the Leagues opinion. Don said they were in opposition. It was not originally an idea of shared revenue to earmark the funds. They compromised with SB 43 by saying that the funds could be used elsewhere in original which was later amended out.

TAPE #12
side 2
1405-end

TAPE #13
side 1
0-412

HB 15, CSSB 43am
May 5, 1975

C&RA POSITION

Jack said hs dept. was in favor with the League's position.

Mr. Brunton suggested disqualifying the title of "fire protection". Don't want to increase fire money to be spent on something else. But some communities only get fire shared revenue, Cotten said.

After further discussion meeting was adjourned at 10:00.

HOUSE BILL 15

Notified Present Testified

5/1

Tom Georganna, Katzeck & Assoc. (586-3227)

Renowick

Duncan

R

X

X

X

X

X

X