

HB

584

Sandy
Straniger -

for your
info re
HB 584

Majorie

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ORIGINAL.

February 12, 1980

BR 90675-Z
Fairbanks, Ak. 99701

The Honorable Charles H. Parr
Alaska House of Representatives
Community and Regional Affairs
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

RE: Opposition to H.B. 584

Dear Sir:

Concerning H.B. 584, "An Act eliminating third class borough", I oppose the bill. I understand a third class borough to be the simplest form of government for residents in a community to have in order for them to have a strong local government. It provides direct power to the people in which they have more direct power than people in a first or second class borough. I realize that the legislators understand the power of a third class borough, but I feel it is not as well understood by the people in general and that it is being misrepresented to the people. To think that in order to have a strong local government that it must be a large standardized complex governing body is, I feel, erroneous. When you have a complex government, people naturally tend to reject or lose the incentive to provide for themselves, due to high taxes and the forced understanding that the government knows what is best for you. To imply that a person does not know how to govern himself is a direct insult to their intelligence.

Working with the Salcha Secession Group, which is trying to detach from the Fairbanks North Star Borough, we are looking for a local government plan which will fit our needs. According to AS 20.03.030, there are five general law municipalities to choose from or become and Unorganized Borough. The residents of Salcha are looking at adopting a third class borough. I believe it will meet our needs better than the second class which now exists. Before the FNSB was formed, Salcha was a growing farming community in which the people were self providing. The community was involved in building a community hall; they were responsible for the establishment of the Salcha Elementary school; and provided the bus service for the elementary and high school students. Salcha residents brought power to the community and tried to build a Farmers loop road. When the taxation started, it was a financial strain to the Salcha farmers who were just making ends meet. The borough went so far as to tax potatoes in their root cellars. Some residents had to dismantle buildings on their farms because they could not afford to pay the taxes. All of this in order to provide services that already exist and these services are still mainly funded by the original source.

When the borough was being formed, Salcha tried to be excluded. At that time it was known that the FNSB could not provide for Salcha and it still cannot in the best interest of the borough.

residents and the State of Alaska. If Salcha were allowed to detach and form its own third class borough, the people would have the direct power to provide for themselves again. By eliminating third class borough, I find this an act of breaking down true local government powers of the people of Alaska. This especially applies to Alaskans of rural and bush Alaska who might choose this type of local government in order to meet their needs.

I am in strong opposition to House Bill 584 and cannot stress to you the importance of this bill being defeated.

Very truly yours,

Allen J. Busby

Allen J. Busby

cc: Parker, Bill
Carney, Patrick J.
Zharoff, Fred P.
Branson, Margaret
Metcalf, Ray H.
O'Connell, Patrick M.
Sturgulowski, Arliss
Mulcahy, Bob
Kelly, Tim
Rodey, Patrick M.
Stinson, Terry

Message phone: 488-2193 - evenings

THE PRECEDING DOCUMENT(S) MAY NOT FILM
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HAINES BOROUGH

P.O. BOX H
HAINES, ALASKA 99827

February 4, 1980

Palmer McCarter, Director
Division of Community and Regional Affairs
Pouch B
Juneau, Alaska 99811

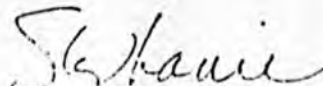
Dear Palmer:

I am enclosing two sets of correspondence concerning two "gray" areas for the third class Haines Borough:

- 1) Our relationship to the management and disposal of land received from the state through the municipal entitlement procedures; and
- 2) The status of the present "chairman" of the Haines Borough Assembly and School Board.

I know this is a very busy time of year for you but if you would look into both of these areas for me I would appreciate it very much. My basic concern with the question of the chairman is how do we elect a borough mayor at large and still maintain our present form of apportionment and representation? It would be nice to be able to deal with this issue this October before dealing with the new forms of representation and possible reapportionment as laid out in the 1979 amendments.

Sincerely yours,



Stephanie K. Scott
Administrative Secretary

RECEIVED

FEB 08 1980

DEPT. OF COMMUNITY
AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS

FROM THE DESK OF JUDGE CARL HEINMILLER
HAINES, ALASKA

Feb.6th

Dear Palmer:

Please keep us informed on this bill!
as we have a strong group in support of it..
Chamber of Commerce..Optimum Government Com
and other.

We hope the Legislature finally has the guts
to kill this dumb Third Class Borough..

Regards,

RECEIVED

FEB 08 1980

DEPT. OF COMMUNITY
AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS

HB534
SB354

January 22, 1980

The Honorable Charlie Parr
State House of Representatives
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Representative Parr:

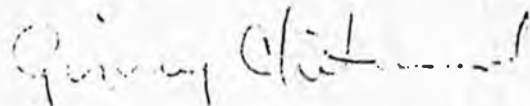
The Alaska Municipal League 1980 Policy Statement contains the following language on third class boroughs. "The League supports elimination of language from the Alaska Statutes which would allow for the future creation of third class boroughs. Any existing third class borough would be allowed to continue in existence until such time as it reclassifies. The League believes that a third class borough, as currently defined in statute, does not meet standards for a general purpose local government."

The third class borough filled the gap caused by the abolishment of the old independent school districts. Subsequent creation of rural education attendance areas, however, obviates the need for an entity, such as the third class borough, to provide local control over local educational districts.

In practice, the Haines Borough has encountered difficulties with the system under which it functions. For example, it is faced with a multitude of land use problems over which it has no statutory authority. In addition, the general local government problems that came before the assembly, and that in most cases cannot legally be resolved by the assembly, are interfering with that body's ability to perform its major function - running the Haines schools.

The League, therefore, is in favor of abolishing the third class borough form because it doesn't meet the maximum local self-government criteria set out in the Constitution, and from a practical point of view it doesn't seem to work.

Sincerely,



Ginny Chitwood
Executive Director

FROM THE DESK OF JUDGE CARL HEINMILLER
HAINES, ALASKA

Feb.6th

Dear Bill:

This is a MUST...we are getting in more trouble every year. we have some people subdividing in the worst possible way...plus garbage dumps..shacks etc.

The hot shot developers who want to mine..and the loggers..want low taxes.. so are oddly enuf, lined up with the no growth people(or the shackers). The City is getting stuck with more and more services, which, while they could refuse ..such as fire serve, it is very difficult. someone burns out and then arrive in town for help etc.

I'd like to testify on this bill whenever it come up..

Regards,

*Typed 2/8/80
Lee
Heinmiller gave
info re
housing
date*

Maj. Carl W. Heinmiller, Ret.

Indian Arts and Crafts Specialist

Box 271, Haines
Alaska 99827

Home: 766-2471
Business: 766-2160
Magistrate: 766-2116
Area Code: 907

Ex. Director: "Chilkat Dancers"

Feb. 6, 1980

Sen. Arliss Sturgulewski
Chairperson
Community and Regional Affairs
State Senate
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska

Dear Senator Sturgulewski:

I am writing in support of HB 584 which would eliminate the Third Class Borough. Over the last 30 years I have been on the School Board and involved with all the complications of the Special School District which finally became a "second thumb" under the State Constitution, i.e. a Third Class Borough. As the constitution required a limited strata of government, there should have never been a Third Class Borough. The making of such a form of government was a method to get out of a responsibility. I am happy to see the Legislature finally take on this change.

I'm enclosing a copy of the local paper which shows how a Third Class Borough, but adding on service district after service district, until it is in effect a Second Class Borough, or better. When a Fire District was setup several years ago, the Borough could not even get candidates to fill the require positions for the District. However, more areas are seeing that they can save considerable insurance by being under a Fire District, and now adding a medical service area. HOWEVER, what is happening is that the Borough Government is duplicating the City Government.

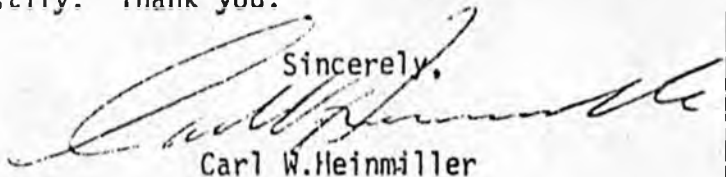
It is understandable that many people in the outlying area do not want to have zoning and planning because they do not want to be restricted. The result is many shacks, improperly subdivided lands, poor water and sewer control and in some areas, lacking of garbage control. The "hue and cry" is "we don't want more government", but these people accept all the services available by the City without paying anything for such service.

It is almost impossible to explain to some that they will only pay for what they get. They do not pay for City sidewalks, road maintenance etc. If they do not have water and sewer, they do not pay for this utility. We have the possibility of industrial development in the outreach area and should that happen under our present type Borough government, a hodgepodge of growth will develop. Of course, these developers see a great advantages of low taxations so side in with those who don't want any control on their own interests, even tho against the developers.

I hope that when this bill (or a Sen. companion bill) comes up for a hearing that I will have the opportunity to testify. Thank you.

CWH/p
CC: Rep. Parker, Duncan, Miller
Sen. Ray

Sincerely,


Carl W. Heinmiller