

COMMITTEE REPORT
HOUSE

(11)

FURTHER:

3/20/53

Date: _____

Mr. Speaker:

The Committee on FINANCE has had RB 710

Amendment relating to an avalanche and fire weather forecasting system; and providing for an effective date.

under consideration and reports it back as follows:

- do pass do not pass
- do pass with attached amendments(s)
- replace with CS for _____ same title
 new title
- and recommends _____
- AND attaches a "Letter of Intent" New Fiscal Note
- reports it back without recommendation Zero Fiscal Note Attached
- referred to the _____ Committee

MEMBERS SIGNING
DO PASS

MEMBERS HAVING
OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS:

CHAIRMAN

Introduced: 1/24/83
Referred: State Affairs and Finance

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY M.M.MILLER

2

HOUSE BILL NO. 110

3

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5

A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to an avalanche and fire weather
7 forecasting system; and providing for an effective
8 date."

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

10 * Section 1. AS 18.76.010 is amended to read:

11

CHAPTER 76. ALASKA AVALANCHE

12

AND FIRE WEATHER FORECASTING [WARNING] SYSTEM.

13

Sec. 18.76.010. PARTICIPATION IN ALASKA [STATEWIDE] AVALANCHE

14

AND FIRE WEATHER FORECASTING [WARNING] SYSTEM. The Department of

15

Natural Resources [PUBLIC SAFETY], acting in cooperation with a munic-

16

ipality, [OR WITH] an agency of the federal government, or with a

17

private entity, shall participate in the development and implemenca-

18

tion of a statewide avalanche and fire weather forecasting [WARNING]

19

system, and shall represent the state in the operation of that system.

20

The [STATEWIDE] system shall

21

(1) establish and maintain a service center and primary and

22

supplementary field stations to gather information and data concerning

23

(A) [GROUND] weather conditions indicating avalanche

24

danger and wild land fire danger; [,]

25

(B) snow pack; [,] and

26

(C) avalanche activity;

27

(2) forecast [SNOW] avalanche conditions throughout the

28

state;

29

(3) coordinate a public awareness program on avalanche

1 danger;

2 (4) catalog a comprehensive atlas of avalanche paths and
3 slide occurrences; [AND]

4 (5) assist local governments and state agencies in identi-
5 fying hazardous avalanche zones and in developing [SNOW] avalanche
6 zoning regulations; and

7 (6) forecast fire weather conditions throughout the state.

8 * Sec. 2. AS 18.76 is amended by adding a new section to read:

9 Sec. 18.76.100. DEFINITION. In this chapter, "avalanche" means
10 a snow avalanche, and does not include a rockslide or a mud slide.

11 * Sec. 3. This Act takes effect immediately in accordance with AS 01.-
12 10.070(c).

STATE OF ALASKA 1984 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
FISCAL NOTE

Revision Date: January 20, 1984

REQUEST
 Bill/Resolution No.: HB 110
 Title: An act relating to an
avalanche & fire weather forecasting system
 Sponsor: M. M. Miller
 Requestor: House Finance Committee
 Date of Request: January 20, 1984

FISCAL DETAIL
 Agency Affected: Natural Resources
 Program Category Affected: NRMEC
 BRU, Program or Subprogram(s) Affected: Park Management

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY 84	FY 85	FY 86	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89
OPERATING						
100 PERSONAL SERVICES						
200 TRAVEL						
300 CONTRACTUAL						
400 SUPPLIES						
500 EQUIPMENT						
600 LAND & STRUCTURES						
700 GRANTS, CLAIMS						
800 MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING						
CAPITAL						
REVENUE						

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND						
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL						

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

SOURCE OF FUNDS TO OFFSET FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL:

These funds are currently included in the FY 84 budget and FY 85 budget proposal for the Department of Public Safety. This is a transfer of funds (\$98.6) to Park Visitor Services project, Park Management BRU. Amount of transfer is \$275.0. The intended distribution would include \$32.3 for DOT/PF (avalanche) and \$144.1

ANALYSIS: Attach a separate page for analysis for AEIDC (avalanche and fire).

Prepared By: Ned Farquhar Phone: 465-2400
 Division: Commissioner's Office Date: January 20, 1984

Approved by Commissioner: Wm D. Arnold, Deputy Date: 1/23/84
 Agency: DNR

Distribution (by Agency preparing fiscal note):
 Legislative Finance
 Legislative Sponsor
 Requestor
 Office of Management and Budget
 Impacted Agency(ies)

12/1/83

Recid 2-10-84
 Rept out 1-24-84

STATE OF ALASKA 1984 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
 FISCAL NOTE

Revision Date: 2/9/84

REQUEST

Bill/Resolution No.: HB 110
 Title: Avalanche & fire weather forecasting system
 Sponsor: M. M. Miller
 Requestor: Senate State Affairs
 Date of Request: 1/20/84

FISCAL DETAIL

Agency Affected: Natural Resources
 Program Category Affected: NRMEC
 BRU, Program or Subprogram(s) Affected: Park Management

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY 84	FY 85	FY 86	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89
OPERATING						
100 PERSONAL SERVICES						
200 TRAVEL						
300 CONTRACTUAL						
400 SUPPLIES						
500 EQUIPMENT						
600 LAND & STRUCTURES						
700 GRANTS, CLAIMS						
800 MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	275.0	275.0	275.0	275.0	275.0	275.0
CAPITAL						
REVENUE						

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND						
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL						

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

SOURCE OF FUNDS TO OFFSET FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL:

These funds are currently included in the FY 84 budget and FY 85 budget proposal for the Department of Public Safety. This is a transfer of funds (\$98.6) to Park Visitor Services project, Park Management BRU. Amount of transfer is \$275.0. The intended distribution would include \$32.3 for DOT/PF (avalanche) and \$144.1 for AEIDC (avalanche and fire).

ANALYSIS: Attach a separate page for analysis

Prepared By: Ned Farquhar Phone: 465-2400
 Division: Commissioner's Office Date: 2/9/84

Approved by Commissioner: William D Arnold, Deputy Date: 2/9/84
 Agency: Department of Natural Resources

Distribution (by Agency preparing fiscal note):

- Legislative Finance
- Legislative Sponsor
- Requestor
- Office of Management and Budget
- Impacted Agency(ies)

12/1/83

Rec'd 2-9-84

Rec'd out 2-24-84

STATE OF ALASKA 1984 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
FISCAL NOTE

Revision Date: _____

REQUEST

Bill/Resolution No.: HB 110
Title: Act Relating to Avalanche
and Fire Weather Forecasting
Sponsor: Rep. Miller
Requestor: Senate State Affairs
Date of Request: 2-8-84

FISCAL DETAIL

Agency Affected: Public Safety
Program Category Affected: Justice
BRU, Program or Subprogram(s) Affected:
Alaska State Troopers

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY 84	FY 85	FY 86	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89
OPERATING						
100 PERSONAL SERVICES						
200 TRAVEL						
300 CONTRACTUAL		(275.0)				
400 SUPPLIES						
500 EQUIPMENT						
600 LAND & STRUCTURES						
700 GRANTS, CLAIMS						
800 MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING		(275.0)				
CAPITAL						
REVENUE						

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND		(275.0)				
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL						

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

SOURCE OF FUNDS TO OFFSET FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL:

ANALYSIS: Attach a separate page for analysis

Prepared By: Francis C. Allan Phone: 269-5691
Division: Alaska State Troopers Date: 2-8-84
Approved by Commissioner: [Signature] Date: 2/8/84
Agency: Public Safety

Distribution (by Agency preparing fiscal note):

- Legislative Finance
- Legislative Sponsor
- Requestor
- Office of Management and Budget
- Impacted Agency(ies)

12/1/83

Division of Alaska State Troopers
HB 110
Analysis

The Department of Public Safety, Alaska State Troopers BRU contains \$275,000 in the Detachments and C.I.B. component in FY 84 and the budget recently submitted to the Governor for FY 85. The Division has acted as a pass-through agency and has taken no active role in the operation of the Fire/Avalanche Warning System due to its lack of expertise in these areas. In FY 84 the funds were distributed by RSA to the Department of Natural Resources, Division of Parks (\$98,600), Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (\$32,300), and the University of Alaska (\$144,100). Thus, passage of this bill will have no effect on existing A.S.T. programs.

STATE OF ALASKA 1984 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
FISCAL NOTE

Revision Date: 2/7/84

REQUEST

Bill/Resolution No.: HB 110
 Title: Avalanche & fire weather forecasting system
 Sponsor: M. M. Miller
 Requestor: Senate State Affairs
 Date of Request: 1/20/84

FISCAL DETAIL

Agency Affected: Natural Resources
 Program Category Affected: NRMEC
 BRU, Program or Subprogram(s) Affected: Park Management

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY 84	FY 85	FY 86	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89
OPERATING						
100 PERSONAL SERVICES						
200 TRAVEL						
300 CONTRACTUAL						
400 SUPPLIES						
500 EQUIPMENT						
600 LAND & STRUCTURES						
700 GRANTS, CLAIMS						
800 MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	0	0	0	0	0	0
CAPITAL						
REVENUE						

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND						
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL						

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

SOURCE OF FUNDS TO OFFSET FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL:

These funds are currently included in the FY 84 budget and FY 85 budget proposal for the Department of Public Safety. This is a transfer of funds (\$98.6) to Park Visitor Services project, Park Management BRU. Amount of transfer is \$275.0. The intended distribution would include \$32.3 for DOT/PF (avalanche) and \$144.1 for AFIDC (avalanche and fire).

ANALYSIS: Attach a separate page for analysis

Prepared By: Ned Farquhar Phone: 465-2400
 Division: Commissioner's Office Date: 2/7/84

Approved by Commissioner: William D Arnold, Deputy Date: 2/7/84
 Agency: Department of Natural Resources

Distribution (by Agency preparing fiscal note):

- Legislative Finance
- Legislative Sponsor
- Requestor
- Office of Management and Budget
- Impacted Agency(ies)

OPENING REMARKS FOR HB 110:

CS HB 110 (St. Affairs) DOES TWO THINGS: (1) IT ADDS FIRE WEATHER FORECASTING TO THE STATE'S CURRENT SYSTEM FOR FORECASTING AND PREVENTING AVALANCHES. (2) IT MOVES THE PROGRAM FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY TO THE ARCTIC ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION AND DATA CENTER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA.

THE ORIGINAL BILL WOULD HAVE MOVED THE PROGRAM FROM D.P.S. TO THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES. ALTHOUGH D.N.R. ORIGINALLY REQUESTED THE CHANGE TO A.E.I.D.C., ALL AGENCIES INVOLVED IN AVALANCHE AND FIRE FORECASTING AND PREVENTION ARE NOW IN AGREEMENT THAT D.N.R. SHOULD BE THE MAIN, COORDINATING AGENCY. THERE ARE LETTERS IN YOUR FILE WITH FURTHER INFORMATION ON THIS POINT. THEREFORE, IF THE COMMITTEE DESIRES TO MOVE THE BILL OUT TODAY, I WOULD SUGGEST THAT WE PASS OUT THE ORIGINAL BILL SO THAT THE PROGRAM IS GIVEN TO D.N.R.

THERE IS NO NEW FISCAL IMPACT FROM PASSAGE OF HB 110. FUNDING FOR AVALANCHE AND FIRE FORECASTING IS TAKEN CARE OF IN THE OPERATING BUDGET. HOWEVER, PASSAGE OF THE BILL WOULD RESULT IN A FUNDING TRANSFER FROM THE D.P.S. BUDGET TO THE D.N.R. BUDGET. CURERNTLY, THIS IS HANDLED THROUGH THE R.S.A. PROCESS BETWEEN THE TWO AGENCIES.

Al: I checked with Berrier on whether you guys should pass out the original bill or do another CS. He says just pass out the original bill --- unless you make other changes, also. ---L.

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

BILL SHEFFIELD, GOVERNOR

POUCH M
JUNEAU
PHONE

January 20, 1984

The Honorable Al Adams
Chairman, House Finance Committee
Alaska State Legislature
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Representative Adams:

Re: HB 110 - Avalanche and Fire Weather Forecasting

Last spring the Department of Natural Resources testified before the House State Affairs Committee in favor of the intent of HB 110, but recommended that the avalanche and fire weather forecasting program be moved to the University of Alaska.

Upon review, our position has changed so that we concur with the original proposal to move the program into the Department of Natural Resources. We coordinate avalanche education in Alaska and manage many high-use recreation areas where avalanche danger is particularly high. Our fire protection responsibilities, which are growing rapidly, will reach 137 million acres this year, and we rely on fire weather forecasting to plan our responsiveness to wildland fires. Fire weather forecasting is not included in the current statute.

We continue to support the bill and recommend substitute wording that moves the avalanche and fire weather forecasting program into DNR.

Sincerely,



Robert D. Arnold
Deputy Commissioner

cc: Commissioner Sundberg, Department of Public Safety
Commissioner Knapp, Department of Transportation
and Public Facilities
Dave Hickock, AEIDC



UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA, FAIRBANKS

January 20, 1984

Honorable Al Adams
Chairman, Committee on Finance
Alaska House of Representatives
Pouch V
Mail Stop 3100
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This responds to the request of Ms. Lou Ann Cutler of your staff that the management of the University of Alaska's Arctic Environmental Information and Data Center (AEIDC) take a position on agency designation of responsibility in HB 110.

There exists a multiagency agreement on the operation of Alaska's fire weather and avalanche forecasting system. The conduit for state funds to interagency program cost sharing has been the Department of Public Safety. AEIDC's costs for providing technical forecast services for state agencies in the past year were made via a Reimbursable Services Agreement from Public Safety.

All agencies (including AEIDC) are in general agreement that the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) should replace Public Safety in the statutes as lead responsible state agency and funding recipient for the avalanche/fire weather program. Last year DNR expressed the thought that AEIDC should be given the task. AEIDC is willing to have the statute indicate cooperative program effort between DNR and AEIDC but firmly believes that state program leadership be vested in DNR and that funds be allocated to the DNR budget rather than the university budget.

AEIDC's role is to provide technical services for forecasting by providing staff meteorologists and snow experts of the Alaska State Climate Center here at AEIDC to the program. In the second year of AEIDC service the program was underfunded with \$275,000 of state funds. Of this amount \$144,100 was allocated for AEIDC services. An additional allocation of \$107,404 has been made from federal sources to AEIDC.

Future federal funding to AEIDC will be no more than \$107,000 per year. If AEIDC is to expand the geographic coverage of fire weather and avalanche forecasts as currently requested by the agencies involved, then additional funds in the amount of \$126,260 state funding will be needed for fiscal year 1985, to create program account of \$270,360 in state funds for AEIDC services.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment upon HB110.

Sincerely,

David M. Hickok
Director

AEIDC AVALANCHE/FIREWEATHER FORECAST SYSTEM FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

	FY84			FY85	
	STATE	FEDERAL	ANTICIPATED FEDERAL	STATE	FEDERAL
100 PERSONAL SERVICES	90,690	56,115	16,667	175,990	66,740
200 TRAVEL	9,000	344		9,000	2,000
300 CONTRACTUAL	8,628	10,761		7,200	15,860
400 COMMODITIES	2,000	464		1,000	700
500 EQUIPMENT				10,000	
800 MISCELLANEOUS *	33,782	19,720	3,333	67,170	21,700
TOTAL	144,100	87,404	20,000	270,360	107,000

Code 800 Miscellaneous represents overhead @ 20% for positions based in federal quarters, 45% for all other costs except equipment.

Continuing years would need to be funded with a 5% inflationary factor, or whichever is accepted in the budget process.

POSITIONS:	Full-time	FY84	5	FY85	6
	Temporary	FY84	6	FY85	5

Prepared 1/20/84
WR/

P.O. Box 432
Douglas, Alaska 9982

May 6, 1983

Representative Mitch Abood, Chairman
House State Affairs Committee
Alaska State Legislature
Pouch V (MS 3100)
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Representative Albert P. Adams, Chairman
House Finance Committee
Alaska State Legislature

COPY

Dear Representative _____

This letter is in support of the enclosed House Bill No. 110, sponsored and introduced in the present session on 1/24/83 by Representative Mike Miller. It has been referred to State Affairs and Finance, where it now sits.

This bill is an amendment to legislation passed in 1979 pertaining to an avalanche warning system for Alaska. It is primarily a housekeeping measure, with word changes that recognize the scientific forecasting value of the system rather than implying scare tactics through emphasizing warnings. However, should extreme avalanche danger develop, then of course appropriate warnings would be disseminated to the public. It also recognizes the associated value of the fire weather forecasting part of the overall system, and the nomenclature of the project therefore becomes the Alaska Avalanche and Fire Weather Forecasting System (AA/FWFS).


Probably the most significant change in the statute is a proposed shifting of responsibility from the Department of Public Safety to the Department of Natural Resources, in representing the state for operation of the system. Experience to date has shown this to be a more practical approach, since DNR now plays the major role in conducting the public education and prevention aspects of the program. Technical avalanche awareness workshops are offered throughout the state by DNR. In other words, DNR is closer to an on-the-ground application in a working mode than is DPS. By prior agreement between the two Departments, this change appeared to be needed. The change should therefore not meet with any opposition, from the standpoint of the Departments involved.

While employed by the U.S. Forest Service, I was personally helping to formulate the original legislation which was sponsored by Representative Mike Miller to get the system going on a statewide basis. Although I have recently retired from that agency, I still maintain a personal interest in the AA/FWFS for its most effective operation.

I urge you to schedule this bill on the calendar at the earliest possible time, to enable possible passage during the current session. In this way, DNR would be in a position to followup with regular program planning and a budgetary request for Fiscal Year 1985. DPS has already submitted a budget request for Fiscal Year 1984 which is presently under routine review. This bill therefore does not

involve any new fiscal impacts from the standpoint of any needed special supplemental appropriations.

Sincerely,


Robert C. Jones

Enclosure

cc: Representative Mike Miller
House State Affairs Committee

Representative Jim Duncan
House Finance Committee

Wallace Watts, USFS Anchorage
Program Director AA/FWFS

Gary Morrison, USFS Juneau
Division of Recreation

STATE OF ALASKA

BILL SHEFFIELD, GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC FACILITIES

MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS

Box 3-1000 Juneau, Alaska
99802
PHONE: 907 789-0841

April 6, 1983

Honorable Mike Miller
Alaska House of Representatives
Alaska State Capitol
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Sir:

Basic organizational and operational concerns need to be dealt with to insure public and employee safety.

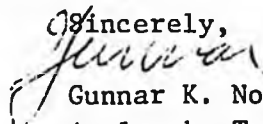
The current avalanche forecast and control organization is undefined and has no written procedures and is very fragmented. Communication and line of command is cumbersome and confusing. No one is responsible or in charge of the whole safety program.

Snow avalanche problems are just attached to regular ongoing DOT/PF superintendents, maintenance and operational duties. Consequently, concern is only expressed and addressed when a serious snow related problem exists. After snow is removed from the highways, avalanche safety becomes a forgotten and minor issue.

Snow mountain weather in Alaska is a very dynamic system. The monitoring of snow avalanche conditions is a six to nine month, seven days a week, twenty-four hours a day, and under some high hazardous conditions an hourly requirement. Specialists trained and directly involved in forecasting and evaluating snow avalanche hazard must concentrate, collect and assimilate weather and snow information throughout the winter snow season, November thru April.

In Juneau, the immediate concerns are construction and maintenance of climatological stations at Eaglecrest and Salmon Creek. These two stations are now constructed but need to be maintained. Also, the positioning of meteor burst data collection station, (wind speed, direction, relative humidity, temperature, water content of snow). When all these stations are operational we can then base our avalanche advisories on hard data. The Alaska Avalanche/Fire Warning System is now in it's toddler stage, there will be some growing pains. Hopefully all instrumentation will be completed before the 1983-84 avalanche season is upon us.

A draft is being compiled on specific recommendations that I feel would help this cooperative system flow smoother, a copy of this will be made available to you.

Sincerely,

Gunnar K. Noreen
Avalanche Technician

FOGGY MOUNTAIN SHOP

Scott Fischer • Betsy Flood

171 SHATTUCK WAY

JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801

PHONE (907) 586-6780

March 4, 1983

The Honorable Mike Miller
House of Representatives
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Mike,

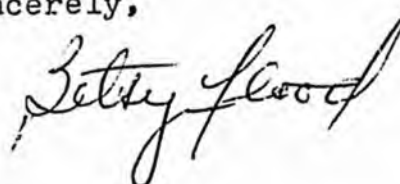
I recently completed a four day avalanche workshop in Juneau sponsored by the Alaska Avalanche School, Division of Parks, Dept. of Natural Resources. As a backcountry skier, I was very impressed with many aspects of this citizen education program subsidized in part by our state government.

All the instructors were experienced, knowledgeable and professional in their efforts to educate a varied group of over thirty students in avalanche evaluation, safety and rescue. The workshop schedule was well arranged for maximum classroom instruction and field work and very proficiently run by coordinator Doug Fesler.

I strongly support continued use of state money for programs such as the Alaska Avalanche School. Many Alaskans are involved, or have friends and family involved, in winter backcountry travel. The Alaska Avalanche School is a rare opportunity to educate these citizens in safe winter travel and thus help avoid the comparatively high costs of state funded rescue efforts in the backcountry. Doug Fesler should be commended for his tremendous efforts in this direction.

Thanks for your attention, Mike.

Sincerely,



March 21, 1983

Representative Mike Miller
Alaska State Legislature
Pouch V
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Representative Miller:

We were fortunate enough to be able to attend the Alaska Avalanche School, Juneau Workshop in February 17-20. I don't believe we are alone in stating that the workshop was very well organized, instructed and very, very valuable in terms of public education.

We have both been involved in backcountry recreational guiding for the past two years in Alaska and have seen, even in that short time, a significant increase in wintertime backcountry use. With sophisticated modern equipment and techniques, this trend is sure to continue. With this in mind, public avalanche education is imperative. Also, with the lack of zoning restrictions at either the state or local level, knowledge of potential avalanche hazards to housing developments and individual homesites could avoid major losses of life and property.

We are taking the point of view that prevention is the best cure. Not only are avalanche accidents often tragic, and organized rescue efforts (often merely body recoveries) very expensive, but they are in most cases, avoidable if people possess the proper knowledge for basic evaluation of avalanche hazards.

True, public education in this area is expensive, but the returns are high in terms of public safety and avoidance of expensive rescue efforts. In the past, the State of Alaska has been able to offer avalanche education to the public at a cost affordable to most people. We strongly support the continuance of public avalanche education through the Alaska Avalanche School workshops.

It is encouraging to see more and more people enjoying Alaska's wintertime backcountry, but they should have the opportunity to approach backcountry activities armed with the necessary knowledge to avoid potential hazards or, if they are involved in an avalanche incident, to effect rescue efforts for those caught in a slide (buried victims' best chances for survival are the members of the party who were not caught in the slide).

The Alaska Avalanche School workshops are well managed, instructed, and provide an essential public service. They deserve to be continued. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

William Ross Hardwick

Gloria Griffith Hardwick

William Ross Hardwick

Gloria Griffith Hardwick

Box 534

Douglas, AK 99824

cc: Neil Johannsen

City of Delta Junction

Box 229

Delta Junction, Alaska 99737

907 - 895 - 4656

The North End of the Alaska Highway

March 3, 1983

Representative Mike Miller (D)
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Representative Miller:

The City Council of Delta Junction reviewed pending legislation at their March 1, 1983 meeting. They voted unanimously to endorse and provide their support on the following bills:

- HB42 An Act relating to the determination of population for purposes of calculating amounts of state aid; and providing for an effective date.
- HB100 An Act relating to an avalanche and fire weather forecasting system; and providing for an effective date.
- HB119 An Act making a special appropriation for payment as a grant to the community of TOK for a rescue ambulance apparatus; and providing for an effective date.
- HB136 An Act making an appropriation to the Department of Revenue for financial assistance to municipalities; and providing for an effective date.
- HB153 An Act making a supplemental appropriation to the Department of Revenue for financial assistance to municipalities; and providing for an effective date.
- HB162 An Act authorizing general law municipalities to limit the number of consecutive full terms certain municipal officials may serve.
- HB172 An Act relating to municipal government; and providing for an effective date. (Title 29 rewrite).

House Bill 164 was also reviewed by the Council and they voted four to two against endorsing and supporting this legislation.

Sincerely,

Lou Heinbockel

Louis E. Heinbockel, Mayor
City of Delta Junction

Offered: 5/20/83
Referred: Finance

Original sponsor: M.M.Miller

1 IN THE HOUSE BY THE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
2 CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 110 (State Affairs)
3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
4 THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to an avalanche and fire weather
7 forecasting system; and providing for an effective
8 date."

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12 AND FIRE WEATHER FORECASTING [WARNING] SYSTEM.

13 Sec. 18.76.010. PARTICIPATION IN ALASKA [STATEWIDE] AVALANCHE
14 AND FIRE WEATHER FORECASTING [WARNING] SYSTEM. The Arctic Environ-
15 mental Information and Data Center, University of Alaska [DEPARTMENT
16 OF PUBLIC SAFETY], acting in cooperation with a municipality, [OR
17 WITH] an agency of the federal government, or with a private entity,
18 shall participate in the development and implementation of a statewide
19 avalanche and fire weather forecasting [WARNING] system, and shall
20 represent the state in the operation of that system. The [STATEWIDE]
21 system shall

22 (1) establish and maintain a service center and primary and
23 supplementary field stations to gather information and data concerning

24 (A) [GROUND] weather conditions indicating avalanche
25 danger and wild land fire danger; [,]

26 (B) snow pack; [,] and

27 (C) avalanche activity;

28 (2) forecast [SNOW] avalanche conditions throughout the
29 state;

1 (3) coordinate a public awareness program on avalanche
2 danger;

3 (4) catalog a comprehensive atlas of avalanche paths and
4 slide occurrences; [AND]

5 (5) assist local governments and state agencies in identi-
6 fying hazardous avalanche zones and in developing [SNOW] avalanche
7 zoning regulations; and

8 (6) forecast fire weather conditions throughout the state.

9 * Sec. 2. AS 18.76 is amended by adding a new section to read:

10 Sec. 18.76.100. DEFINITION. In this chapter, "avalanche" means
11 a snow avalanche, and does not include a rockslide or a mud slide.

12 * Sec. 3. This Act takes effect immediately in accordance with AS 01.-
13 10.070(c).

Introduced: 1/24/63
Referred: State Affairs and Finance

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY M.M.MILLER

2

HOUSE BILL NO. 110

3

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5

A BILL

6

For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to an avalanche and fire weather
7 forecasting system; and providing for an effective
8 date."

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BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

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* Section 1. AS 18.76.010 is amended to read:

11

CHAPTER 76. ALASKA AVALANCHE

12

AND FIRE WEATHER FORECASTING [WARNING] SYSTEM.

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Sec. 18.76.010. PARTICIPATION IN ALASKA [STATEWIDE] AVALANCHE

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AND FIRE WEATHER FORECASTING [WARNING] SYSTEM. The Department of

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Natural Resources [PUBLIC SAFETY], acting in cooperation with a munic-

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ipality, [OR WITH] an agency of the federal government, or with a

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private entity, shall participate in the development and implementa-

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tion of a statewide avalanche and fire weather forecasting [WARNING]

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system, and shall represent the state in the operation of that system.

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The [STATEWIDE] system shall

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(1) establish and maintain a service center and primary and

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supplementary field stations to gather information and data concerning

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(A) [GROUND] weather conditions indicating avalanche

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danger and wild land fire danger; [,]

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(B) snow pack; [,] and

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(C) avalanche activity;

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(2) forecast [SNOW] avalanche conditions throughout the

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state;

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(3) coordinate a public awareness program on avalanche

1 danger;

2 (4) catalog a comprehensive atlas of avalanche paths and
3 slide occurrences; [AND]

4 (5) assist local governments and state agencies in identi-
5 fying hazardous avalanche zones and in developing [SNOW] avalanche
6 zoning regulations; and

7 (6) forecast fire weather conditions throughout the state.

8 * Sec. 2. AS 18.76 is amended by adding a new section to read:

9 Sec. 18.76.100. DEFINITION. In this chapter, "avalanche" means
10 a snow avalanche, and does not include a rockslide or a mud slide.

11 * Sec. 3. This Act takes effect immediately in accordance with AS 01.-
12 10.070(c).