

HB

35

<TARGET><BILL>HB 35</BILL><SUBJECT>HB
35</SUBJECT><COMM>HSTA29</COMM></TARGET>

Nancy Manly

From: Nancy Manly
Sent: Wednesday, February 25, 2015 8:20 AM
To: Lori Roland
Subject: RE: contact for Chuck Volanti?

Here it is. Let me know if you have any problems contacting him. Jeff Turner says he checks his email all the time. 1enrichjudy@comcast.net

Nancy Manly, Chief of Staff and
House State Affairs Committee Aide *for*
Representative Bob Lynn
House District 26
907-465-2794 Fax: 907-465-4316

From: Lori Roland
Sent: Tuesday, February 24, 2015 4:49 PM
To: Nancy Manly
Subject: contact for Chuck Volanti?

Nancy,

Chuck Volanti, from Olympia, WA, testified during the hearing on HB 35, 2/5/15. It sounds like he was reading a statement he had prepared. Do you have a contact for him so I could ask him to e-mail that testimony?

Lori

Nancy Manly

From: Jeff Turner
Sent: Wednesday, February 25, 2015 8:18 AM
To: Nancy Manly
Subject: FW: House Vote on HB 35

From: 1enrichjudy@comcast.net [mailto:1enrichjudy@comcast.net]
Sent: Saturday, February 21, 2015 11:14 AM
To: Jeff Turner
Subject: House Vote on HB 35

Good Morning Jeff,

My sincere congratulations and gratitude to Representative Millett for orchestrating such massive support for HB 35; realizing the House vote was unanimous at 38 strong. I am **more** than elated. The daily log shows it has now been moved to the Senate. When the date of that hearing has been set, please me know, along with the phone number so that I can call in to testify. My profound gratitude to you for all your support and all of which you continue doing.

Have a great day and weekend.... Chuck

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 35(STA)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Offered:
Referred:

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES MILLETT, Hughes, Gara, Gattis

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act establishing March 27 as Great Alaska Good Friday Earthquake
2 Remembrance Day."

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

4 * **Section 1.** AS 44.12 is amended by adding a new section to read:

5 **Sec. 44.12.087. Great Alaska Good Friday Earthquake Remembrance**
6 **Day.** Great Alaska Good Friday Earthquake Remembrance Day is established on
7 March 27 of each year to honor those who died throughout the state in earthquakes,
8 tsunamis, and landslides after the most powerful recorded earthquake in North
9 America, and also to honor those who died attempting to save others. The devastating
10 consequences and efforts of recovery after the 1964 earthquake provided many lessons
11 that should not be forgotten and should be used to develop a safer human environment
12 in the state and to increase public awareness, which is the most cost-effective and
13 critical aspect of preparation for the next earthquake. The governor shall issue a
14 proclamation to commemorate Great Alaska Good Friday Earthquake Remembrance

1
2

Day and shall direct that the Alaska flag be flown at half-mast on that day. The day may be observed by suitable observances and exercises by civic groups and the public.

Nancy Manly

From: Nancy Manly
Sent: Thursday, February 05, 2015 10:19 AM
To: LAA Legal
Subject: FINAL CS - HB 35 Great Alaskan Earthquake Day

2-5-2015

The House State Affairs Committee heard HB 35 and was amended before moving from committee. Please draft a final CS with the following change:

Amendment #1 (Keller) Line 1 Page 1 in the title after "Great Alaska" ADD: Good Friday so the line should read ...March 27 as Great Alaska Good Friday Earthquake Remembrance Day

Amendment #1 to Amendment #1 (Gruenberg) making Amendment #1 a conceptual amendment to conform all parts of the bill with the changes to the title

Nancy Manly, Chief of Staff and
House State Affairs Committee Aide *for*
Representative Bob Lynn
House District 26
907-465-2794 Fax: 907-465-4316

1st hearing 2/5/15

Public testimony ~~open~~ closed

Bob

29-LS0212W

c

HOUSE BILL NO. 35

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVE MILLETT

Introduced: 1/9/15
Referred: Prefiled

842
A
Amend # 1
Keller

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

Conceptual Amend to Amend # 1
to conform with Amend # 1

1 "An Act establishing March 27 as Great Alaska ^{Good Friday} Earthquake Remembrance Day."

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

3 * Section 1. AS 44.12 is amended by adding a new section to read:

4 **Sec. 44.12.087. Great Alaska Earthquake Remembrance Day.** Great Alaska
5 Earthquake Remembrance Day is established on March 27 of each year to honor those
6 who died throughout the state in earthquakes, tsunamis, and landslides after the most
7 powerful recorded earthquake in North America, and also to honor those who died
8 attempting to save others. The devastating consequences and efforts of recovery after
9 the 1964 earthquake provided many lessons that should not be forgotten and should be
10 used to develop a safer human environment in the state and to increase public
11 awareness, which is the most cost-effective and critical aspect of preparation for the
12 next earthquake. The governor shall issue a proclamation to commemorate Great
13 Alaska Earthquake Remembrance Day and shall direct that the Alaska flag be flown at
14 half-mast on that day. The day may be observed by suitable observances and exercises
15 by civic groups and the public.

Alaska Legislature

Representative Charisse Millett

Session:

State Capitol Building, Room 204
Juneau, AK 99801
Phone (907) 465-3879
Fax (907) 465-2069
Toll free (888) 269-3879



Interim:

Anchorage LIO
716 W 4th Ave., Suite 620
Anchorage, AK 99501
Phone (907) 269-0222

rep.charisse.millett@akleg.gov
District 25

Version: 29-LS0212\W

Sponsor Statement - House Bill 35

"An Act Establishing March 27 as Great Alaska Earthquake Remembrance Day"

The March 27th 1964 Great Alaska Earthquake leveled many areas of Southcentral Alaska but it also brought out the strength, determination and compassion of Alaskans. The list of Alaskans who demonstrated that courage includes, but is not limited to, first responders, military and National Guard personnel, health care providers, state and municipal workers and many others.

House Bill 35 establishes March 27 as Great Alaska Earthquake Remembrance Day to give Alaskans the annual opportunity to hold public events that honor the lives lost and remember the thousands of Alaskan men and women who put the needs of others before themselves when it counted the most.

It will increase public awareness about the importance of designing and building structures that can protect Alaskans when the next major earthquake strikes.

The legislation directs the governor to issue a proclamation commemorating Great Alaska Earthquake Remembrance Day and to fly the Alaska flag at half-mast every March 27.

I respectfully ask my colleagues to support this legislation so all Alaskans can reflect on and honor one of the most important days in Alaska history.

Prepared January 25, 2015

Alaska Legislature

Representative Charisse Millett

Session:

State Capitol Building, Room 204
Juneau, AK 99801
Phone (907) 465-3879
Fax (907) 465-2069
Toll free (888) 269-3879



Interim:

Anchorage LIO
716 W 4th Ave., Room 620
Anchorage, AK 99501
Phone (907) 269-0222
Fax (907) 269-0223

rep.charisse.millett.akleg.gov

District 25

1964 Great Alaska Earthquake Facts and Figures

- The earthquake struck at 5:36 p.m. Alaska Standard Time
- It was a 9.2 magnitude quake
- The duration of the quake was estimated at three minutes
- 128 lives were lost – 15 from the quake and another 113 from the tsunami
- \$311 million in property damage
- Anchorage, Chitina, Glennallen, Homer, Hope, Kasilof, Kenai, Kodiak, Moose Pass, Portage, Seldovia, Seward, Sterling, Valdez, Wasilla and Whittier all suffered heavy damage
- About 30 blocks of downtown Anchorage were severely damaged
- The tsunami generated by the quake claimed lives and devastated communities from the Gulf of Alaska to the west coast of the United States and Canada to Hawaii
- The maximum recorded wave height of 67 meters was in Valdez Inlet

Fiscal Note

State of Alaska
2015 Legislative Session

Bill Version: HB 35
Fiscal Note Number: _____
() Publish Date: _____

Identifier: HB035-DOA-DGS-01-30-15
Title: GREAT ALASKA EARTHQUAKE REMEMBRANCE
DAY
Sponsor: MILLETT
Requester: House State Affairs

Department: Department of Administration
Appropriation: General Services
Allocation: Facilities
OMB Component Number: 2429

Expenditures/Revenues

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below. (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY2016 Appropriation Requested	Included in Governor's FY2016 Request	Out-Year Cost Estimates				
			FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2016	FY 2016					
Personal Services							
Travel							
Services							
Commodities							
Capital Outlay							
Grants & Benefits							
Miscellaneous							
Total Operating	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Fund Source (Operating Only)

None							
Total	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Positions

Full-time							
Part-time							
Temporary							

Change in Revenues							
---------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY2015) cost: 0.0 *(separate supplemental appropriation required)*
(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

Estimated CAPITAL (FY2016) cost: 0.0 *(separate capital appropriation required)*
(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

ASSOCIATED REGULATIONS

Does the bill direct, or will the bill result in, regulation changes adopted by your agency? No
If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed?

Why this fiscal note differs from previous version:

Not applicable, initial version

Prepared By: Tom Mayer, Director
Division: General Services
Approved By: Sheldon Fisher, Commissioner
Agency: Department of Administration

Phone: (907)465-5677
Date: 01/30/2015 03:00 PM
Date: 01/30/15

FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

STATE OF ALASKA
2015 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HB 035

Analysis

This bill establishes March 27 of each year to honor those in the state who died in earthquakes, tsunamis and landslides after the most powerful earthquake in North America, as well as those who lost their lives attempting to save others. This bill serves to bring awareness to preparation and development of cost effective measures to support a safer approach to response to such natural disasters. It is requested that Alaska flags be flown at half-mast for the duration of March 27 of each year.

The Department of Administration, Division of General Services does not anticipate any fiscal impact from the proposed legislation and therefore submits a zero fiscal note.

Good Morning Honorable Members of the Alaska State House of Representatives and Senate.

My name is Chuck Volanti. I am a former Alaska Air National Guard Member, who was on duty as the Guard's flight dispatcher that Good Friday Evening of March 27, 1964. This letter comes in reference to HB 35 and represents my humble plea for your continued support.

During the last session, Alaska State House of Representative and Senate Members voted total support in favor of HJR 23, "Proclaiming March 27, 2014, as Good Friday Earthquake Remembrance Day." Representative Charisse Millett was the sponsor of that legislation. That resolution was prompted by my request, intended to honor Alaska State History and the 50th Anniversary of the most tragic event in the state's infancy; being barely five years old.

During the early course of the 28th legislative hearings for HJR 23, it was discovered that the resolution, by nature, lacked the force of "law" and therefore would not constitute ongoing "yearly" recognition for March 27. And in order to make that a reality, a "bill" would be necessary. Long story short, Representative Millett, agreed to request a bill for consideration during this 29th Legislative session. I extend my profound thanks to Representative Millett for her compassion, commitment, and dedication in pursuing legislation that will honor Alaskan State History and generations of Alaskans representing countless thousands of citizens.

What I am about to write here will undoubtedly be redundant for many of you, but not all. I will begin by saying that my original request for legislation was and remains my love of Alaska, its people, the beauty of its nature, but mostly inspired by my association with the Alaska Air National Guard, and emotionally driven by the loss of my flight crew who perished in a crash off the waters of the City of Valdez, during a quake related humanitarian relief mission. Also lost on that flight was the State of Alaska's first ever appointed Alaska National Guard Adjutant General, Major General Thomas P Carroll.

In those days Kulis Alaska Air National Guard Base was located adjacent to Anchorage International Airport. We were a small group with 10 aircraft and enough flight crews to man every C123-J aircraft which sat on our tarmac. Our mission was to protect and serve all citizens of Alaska, where ever that would take us. From the most updated air fields to the most primitive. Being a somewhat small unit we operated more like a family, than a formal military command. Losing the crew was like losing family. I am the last surviving member of that flight operations office and could speak volumes about the men I had the privilege to stand shoulder to shoulder with, but this writing will not allow. So I move on.

Good Friday, March 27th, 1964 at 5:36 pm, this massive quake registered 9.2 on the Richter scale, lasted over four minutes, and caused the deaths of over 130 people, while tearing apart 50,000 square miles of South Central Alaska. That evening Governor William Egan activated all military guard units and we sprang into action immediately to recover the dead, rescue the injured, and to free those who may have still been trapped in the rubble of their surroundings. The air guard facility at Kulis set up a temporary morgue, 100 cots to accommodate some of the local residents who were displaced, and I began coordinating flight crews to be dispatched at first light to those hard hit areas like Valdez, Seward, Kenai and other areas.

But, we were not the only first responders. First responders came from all walks of life, beginning with your next door neighbor, Firefighters, police officers, Alaska State Troopers, Army Corp of Engineers, medics, doctors, nurses, municipal workers, and many others selflessly served their fellow Alaskans;

putting others before self, oftentimes at the risk of their own safety. Tragically some would pay the ultimate sacrifice.

History was being made. On that day, in the bond of human compassion we stood shoulder to shoulder with thousands of Alaskan first responders; it was unlike anything ever seen before. As devastating and ravaging as the earthquake and tsunamis were, is not the main focus of the event. The cornerstone to this day remains the Alaskan people of the day. They displayed a strong will of resilience, resolve, tenacity, and unabated sacrifice. Like the Phoenix of old they arose from the ashes of death, destruction and despair to rebuild their lives, cities, town, and communities. So those who would follow would have a better life. When the going got tough they didn't fold their tents and flee; they dug in. What Alaskans of today enjoy is because they stand on the shoulders of those giants of the past. That is their legacy and it remains intact. That is what we should never forget, never take for granted, and always remember.

I know from past conversations that several of you seated there today endured this tragic experience. And have stories of your own to share. I hope you will at some point take the opportunity to share those experiences with others.

I close by saying that nothing like this event and the coming together of its citizens had ever been seen before in Alaska State History. That is the main reason I see to the importance of HB 35. That is why I plea for your support. In so doing you will show the compassion of a caring state. You will honor generations, and countless thousands of Alaskans. And finally you will honor Alaska State history that is more than deserving of that recognition.

Charles E Volanti ... Former Alaska Air National Guard
5336 Fadling Rd SW
Olympia, Washington 98512
360-866-0876
1erichjudy@comcast.net



January 27, 2015
Office of the Mayor

Majority Leader Charisse Millett
State Capitol Room 204
Juneau AK, 99801

Dear Representative Millett:

On behalf of the City of Valdez it is my pleasure to offer my endorsement and support for HB No. 35, establishing March 27 as "Great Alaska Earthquake Remembrance Day".

Since 1964, the City of Valdez has conducted a day of remembrance on March 27th in honor of those who lost their life as a result of the earthquake and resulting tsunami in Port Valdez. The city has taken action to become a "tsunami ready" community and provides public awareness campaigns during the month of March, urging our citizens to participate in preparedness training and implementation of a family plan.

I welcome the opportunity to join the State of Alaska in this effort to remember the past and prepare for the future by commemorating March 27 as Great Alaska Earthquake Remembrance Day.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Larry Weaver".

Larry Weaver
Mayor
City of Valdez, Alaska



February 2, 2015

The Honorable Charisse Millett
Capitol Building, Room 204
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Representative Millett,

I would like to express my appreciation and support for HB 35, "*An Act Establishing March 27 as Great Alaska Earthquake Remembrance Day*". This bill gives recognition to the devastating impacts of the Great Alaska Earthquake on March 27, 1964. It is a day that is ingrained in many of our memories.

By proclaiming March 27, 2014 as the Great Alaska Earthquake Remembrance Day, it gives us an opportunity not only to remember that terrible day and those we lost, but to recognize the courage of those who participated in the rescue and recovery efforts and encourage Alaskans to prepare for similar disasters that could take place in the future.

I applaud you and the Alaska State Legislature for your work in bringing this to the forefront. It is my hope that your message spreads to citizens across the state and we all can take the time on that day to recognize, remember and prepare.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dan Sullivan".

Dan Sullivan
Mayor



February 2, 2015

Honorable Representative Charisse Millett
State Capitol Room 204
Juneau AK, 99801

RE: Letter of Support- House Bill 35 Great Alaska Earthquake Remembrance Day

Dear Representative Millett:

The Property Casualty Insurers Association of America (PCI) is a national property casualty trade association comprised of over 1,000 member companies, representing the broadest cross-section of insurers of any national trade association. In Alaska, PCI members write 32.8 percent of personal auto insurance, 11.6 percent of homeowners insurance, 17.4 percent of commercial multi-peril business insurance, and 14.3 percent of private workers compensation insurance.

On behalf of PCI we are in support of HB 35, an act that would establish March 27 as the Great Alaska Earthquake Remembrance Day to honor people who died as a result of the most powerful earthquake in North America. The Great Alaska Earthquake Remembrance Day is an important reminder that a devastating earthquake can strike with little or no warning and the need for the appropriate insurance coverage. The standard homeowner's insurance policy does not provide coverage for earthquake damage, and thus homeowners should consider earthquake insurance to protect themselves from such catastrophes.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at (916) 440-1117 or email at armand.feliciano@pciaa.net.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Armand Feliciano". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Armand Feliciano
ACIC Vice President

Cc: Kristopher Knauss, The Knauss Group (PCI lobbyist)



THE STATE
of ALASKA

GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

SEISMIC HAZARDS
SAFETY COMMISSION

Department of Natural Resources
3354 College Road
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709-3707
Main: 907.451.5010
Fax: 907.451.5050

4 February 2015

Sent via email

Representative Millett
State Capitol, Room 204
Juneau, Alaska 99801

RE: House Bill No. 35

Dear Representative Millett:

The Alaska Seismic Hazards Safety Commission (ASHSC) believes continued awareness is a very cost effective and practical means to help mitigate the risk to public safety from a future earthquake. Therefore, the ASHSC strongly supports House Bill 35, establishing March 27 as "Great Alaska Earthquake Remembrance Day", in perpetuity.

The significance of the March 27, 1964 Great Alaska Earthquake, and the associated tsunamis, spans not only the entire state, but also continues today to effect the fields of geology and engineering, as well as efforts to mitigate the risks from future earthquakes.

- The 1964 Great Alaska Earthquake, felt across the entire state from Barrow to Ketchikan, was, and remains the second largest earthquake ever recorded in North America (Magnitude 9.2). The earthquake caused massive destruction and casualties in the coastal communities throughout south-central Alaska, as well as in British Columbia, California, Oregon and Washington (approximately \$2.3 billion dollars of damage in 2013 dollars; and 131 deaths, 115 in Alaska). Without question, this earthquake and the subsequent recovery effort represents one of the major hallmarks and defining moments in Alaska's statehood.
- The earthquake was pivotal in the worldwide awareness of the devastating effects of great subduction zone earthquakes; provided positive evidence to support the then theory of global plate tectonics; and helped lead to the establishment of many current Federal programs specifically intended to mitigate earthquake hazards (e.g. the National Earthquake Reduction Program, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency). And,
- The devastating consequences and efforts of recovery after the 1964 earthquake provided many lessons which should not be forgotten and are still relevant today to develop a safer human environment in the state.

Alaska has more earthquakes than any other region of the United States and is, in fact, one of the most seismically active areas of the world. During 2014 the Alaska Earthquake Center¹ located

¹ www.aeic.alaska.edu

Representative Millett
4 February 2015
Page 2

roughly 30,000 earthquakes in the state, with notable events experienced in all regions including a vigorous and unusual local earthquake swarm in the spring which damaged foundations and alarmed residents in Noatak, in northwest Alaska; a magnitude 7.9 earthquake in the far Aleutians, the strongest in the United States since 2002; a moderate earthquake in southeast Alaska which triggered a submarine landslide that severed a fiber-optic line, disrupting communications in Juneau and throughout the region; and several earthquakes that produced the strongest shaking experienced at Anchorage and Fairbanks in more than a decade. Evidence from recent earthquakes in New Zealand, Italy, China as well as other countries illustrate that earthquakes of even moderate size, which happen annually in Alaska, can cause significant damage and loss of life when they occur close to population centers.

While it is not possible to predict the time and location of the next big earthquake, the active geology of Alaska guarantees that major, potentially damaging earthquakes will continue to occur. Further, despite advancements in seismic hazards analysis and engineering, the age and structural resilience of buildings and infrastructure vary across Alaska, especially in areas of higher seismicity, so damage and casualties should be expected. However, a very cost effective and practical method to reduce the risks to public safety from a future earthquake is through education, outreach, and especially continued awareness. The ASHSC believes that HB 35, in addition to honoring and remembering those Alaskans who lost their lives in the 1964 earthquake, will go a long way to keeping the hazards from earthquakes in the minds of the populace for many years to come.

Respectively yours,



Robert L. Scher, P.E.

Chair, Alaska Seismic Hazards Safety Commission
907.522.1707; bscher@rmconsult.com

Cc: April Woolery, DNR-DGGS

Alaska Legislature
Representative Charisse Millett

Session:

State Capitol Building, Room 204
Juneau, AK 99801
Phone (907) 465-3879
Fax (907) 465-2069



Interim:

Anchorage LIO
716 W 4th Ave., Room 620
Anchorage, AK 99501
Phone (907) 269-0222
Fax (907) 269-0223

MEMORANDUM

Charisse Millett

To: Chairman Bob Lynn, House State Affairs Committee
From: Rep. Charisse Millett
Subject: House Bill 35
Date: Monday, January 26, 2015
CC:

I respectfully request a hearing on House Bill 35 as soon as possible. The necessary documents are included with this request.

The bill establishes March 27 as Great Alaska Earthquake Remembrance Day. It directs the governor to issue a proclamation on March 27 commemorating that day and to have the Alaska flag flown at half-mast.

Jeff Turner is the staffer assigned to this legislation and can be reached at (907) 465-6588.

###

Alaska Legislature

Representative Charisse Millett

Session:

State Capitol Building, Room 403
Juneau, AK 99801
Phone (907) 465-3879
Fax (907) 465-2069
Toll free (888) 269-3879



Interim:

Anchorage LIO
733 W 4th Ave., Suite 100
Anchorage, AK 99501
Phone (907) 269-0222

rep.charisse.millett@akleg.gov

District 25

Teleconference Request for HB 35 – House State Affairs Committee

Invited Testimony:

- 1) Dr. Rich Koehler
State of Alaska, Division of Geological and Geophysical Surveys
- 2) Robert (Buzz) Scher, Chair
Alaska Seismic Hazards Safety Commission



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**

GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

**SEISMIC HAZARDS
SAFETY COMMISSION**

Department of Natural Resources
3354 College Road
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709-3707
Main: 907.451.5010
Fax: 907.451.5050

4 February 2015

Sent via email

Representative Millett
State Capitol, Room 204
Juneau, Alaska 99801

RE: House Bill No. 35

Dear Representative Millett:

The Alaska Seismic Hazards Safety Commission (ASHSC) believes continued awareness is a very cost effective and practical means to help mitigate the risk to public safety from a future earthquake. Therefore, the ASHSC strongly supports House Bill 35, establishing March 27 as "Great Alaska Earthquake Remembrance Day", in perpetuity.

The significance of the March 27, 1964 Great Alaska Earthquake, and the associated tsunamis, spans not only the entire state, but also continues today to effect the fields of geology and engineering, as well as efforts to mitigate the risks from future earthquakes.

- The 1964 Great Alaska Earthquake, felt across the entire state from Barrow to Ketchikan, was, and remains the second largest earthquake ever recorded in North America (Magnitude 9.2). The earthquake caused massive destruction and casualties in the coastal communities throughout south-central Alaska, as well as in British Columbia, California, Oregon and Washington (approximately \$2.3 billion dollars of damage in 2013 dollars; and 131 deaths, 115 in Alaska). Without question, this earthquake and the subsequent recovery effort represents one of the major hallmarks and defining moments in Alaska's statehood.
- The earthquake was pivotal in the worldwide awareness of the devastating effects of great subduction zone earthquakes; provided positive evidence to support the then theory of global plate tectonics; and helped lead to the establishment of many current Federal programs specifically intended to mitigate earthquake hazards (e.g. the National Earthquake Reduction Program, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency). And,
- The devastating consequences and efforts of recovery after the 1964 earthquake provided many lessons which should not be forgotten and are still relevant today to develop a safer human environment in the state.

Alaska has more earthquakes than any other region of the United States and is, in fact, one of the most seismically active areas of the world. During 2014 the Alaska Earthquake Center¹ located

¹ www.aeic.alaska.edu

Representative Millett
4 February 2015
Page 2

roughly 30,000 earthquakes in the state, with notable events experienced in all regions including a vigorous and unusual local earthquake swarm in the spring which damaged foundations and alarmed residents in Noatak, in northwest Alaska; a magnitude 7.9 earthquake in the far Aleutians, the strongest in the United States since 2002; a moderate earthquake in southeast Alaska which triggered a submarine landslide that severed a fiber-optic line, disrupting communications in Juneau and throughout the region; and several earthquakes that produced the strongest shaking experienced at Anchorage and Fairbanks in more than a decade. Evidence from recent earthquakes in New Zealand, Italy, China as well as other countries illustrate that earthquakes of even moderate size, which happen annually in Alaska, can cause significant damage and loss of life when they occur close to population centers.

While it is not possible to predict the time and location of the next big earthquake, the active geology of Alaska guarantees that major, potentially damaging earthquakes will continue to occur. Further, despite advancements in seismic hazards analysis and engineering, the age and structural resilience of buildings and infrastructure vary across Alaska, especially in areas of higher seismicity, so damage and casualties should be expected. However, a very cost effective and practical method to reduce the risks to public safety from a future earthquake is through education, outreach, and especially continued awareness. The ASHSC believes that HB 35, in addition to honoring and remembering those Alaskans who lost their lives in the 1964 earthquake, will go a long way to keeping the hazards from earthquakes in the minds of the populace for many years to come.

Respectively yours,



Robert L. Scher, P.E.

Chair, Alaska Seismic Hazards Safety Commission
907.522.1707; bscher@rmconsult.com

Cc: April Woolery, DNR-DGGS