

City of Kotlik
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February 8, 2021

Senator David Wilson, Chair,
Senate Health and Social Services Committee
State of Alaska
State Capital Room 121
Juneau Alaska 99801

RE: City of Kotlik Support for SB56

Dear Senator Wilson:

The City of Kotlik, Alaska supports SB56, proposed legislation to extend the Governor's current emergency declaration. The current declaration is presently set to expire on February 14, 2021 at 11:59pm. SB56 would generally extend the declaration to September 2021. I understand that the Alaska Municipal League has provided testimony detailing many of the harmful consequences to Alaska municipalities if the declaration expires and will not repeat those here.

Alaska and the City of Kotlik, need a State of Alaska disaster declaration allowing the State to continue to respond to the current Covid-19 public health emergency. This allows the State to be responsive to the crisis in working closely with local governments. Indeed, it also allows for close cooperation between all levels of government while action remains independent.

Further, the declaration provides the infrastructure necessary to respond. It does not require response, only allows for it. The declaration does not restrict- it removes restrictions that allow the State to act effectively.

Thank you for your consideration and support.

Sincerely,



Thomas Sinka, Mayor