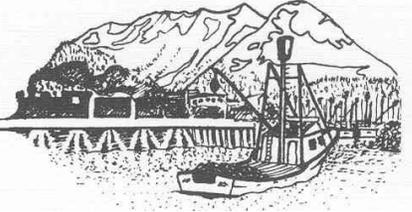


CITY OF CORDOVA



By Email

sen.david.wilson@akleg.gov
jody.simpson@akleg.gov

February 5, 2021

Senator David Wilson, Chair,
Senate Health and Social Services Committee
State Capitol Room 121
Juneau AK, 99801

RE: City of Cordova Support for SB56

Dear Senator Wilson:

As City of Cordova does all it can to mitigate the impacts of Covid-19 in our community, we have relied on the State of Alaska and its declaration of emergency to provide a foundation for our local response and to give best practice guidance to our efforts.

City of Cordova strongly supports SB56, the proposed legislation to extend the Governor's current emergency declaration. Our City Council has elected to follow the lead of State but is NOT prepared to discard the very critical mandates, rules and flexibility that allow our City government to quickly respond to the ever-changing threat and impacts of Covid-19.

Allowing the State declaration of emergency to expire on February 14th flies in the face of health recommendations from CDC and the state's very own Covid-19 and DHSS team. This action has the potential to undermine all the efforts we have put in place to protect our citizens, and to set back the gains we have made to defeat this virus in Alaska. We all want to return our lives to normal but not extending the health emergency is very premature.

Alaskan communities and citizens need the State of Alaska's disaster declaration to allow for a statewide response coordinated between all levels of government, and to access resources and infrastructure to respond to the virus. With Covid-19, quick action and nimbleness is required. The State Declaration of Emergency removes restrictions to allow the State and local governments to act with urgency.

Please re-consider supporting SB56.

Sincerely,

Helen Howarth
City Manager, City of Cordova