



**Alaska Wildland
Adventures**

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Borough Clerk's Office
Kenai Peninsula Borough

Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly
144 North Binkley Street
Soldotna, AK 99669

May 11th, 2017

Dear Borough Assembly

Alaska Wildland Adventures strongly supports Ordinance 2017-09 creating the Eastern Peninsula Highway Emergency Service Area (EPHESA).

Having reliable and quality emergency services on the eastern peninsula along the sparsely populated Seward Highway and the stretch of the Sterling Highway east of Cooper Landing is crucial. The Cooper Landing Emergency Services (CLES) has been dedicated to providing quality emergency services in this area for years but relying on volunteers and operating with extremely limited resources is no longer sustainable.

With the current staffing challenges facing CLES, they are unable to provide the necessary services without paying for "volunteers" and bringing in qualified EMS professionals from outside the area. CLES' expenses have been exceeding revenues by as much as 55% and it is no longer sustainable to operate in a deficit.

Although Ordinance 2017-09 does not give specifics on how EMS will develop, it does provide an avenue for oversight and the funding needed to address the problem along the highway corridor. We appreciate that the Mayor, the Health Care Task Force and the corresponding workgroup have worked together to offer an option to help address this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Kirk Hoessle
President
Alaska Wildland Adventures