



**Bear Creek Fire Service Area
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17-004 BCFSA

Dear Assembly Members,

The Bear Creek Fire Service Area Board of Directors would like to convey our support for KPB Ordinance 2017-09 and the creation of the Eastern Peninsula Highway Emergency Services Area.

The Seward and Sterling Highways from mile 43 to mile 75 function as the main artery for the Kenai Peninsula's ground transportation. Thousands of vehicles pass through this corridor daily in route to destinations such as Seward, Moose Pass, Cooper Landing, Sterling and beyond.

The stretch of the highway outside of Seward that so often goes unprotected would benefit greatly from the coordinated coverage that this ordinance would establish. Creating one specific body to take responsibility over that area of the highway would provide a more calculated effort and shorter response times to the people who often need help the most. Especially with the majority of the area being bordered by uninhabited land.

Bear Creek Volunteers along with Moose Pass Volunteer Fire Company, Seward Volunteer Ambulance and Cooper Landing Ambulance have struggled to provide efficient coverage to this area of the Seward and Sterling Highway over the years.

An incident of such magnitude that requires these organizations to respond outside of their area puts their leadership into the difficult position of making decisions such as, who goes and who stays? We want to effectively provide and sustain an organized response that will efficiently protect what has otherwise been called a "No man's land" in the past.

We support any efforts to forward progress of the establishment and structuring of this service area.

Regards,

Bear Creek Fire Service Area Board of Directors

Cc: File/Correspondence