



HAINES BOROUGH, ALASKA  
P.O. BOX 1209  
HAINES, AK 99827  
(907) 766-6400 \* FAX (907) 766-2716

April 7, 2024

Re: Senate Bill 242/House Bill 347: An Act relating to assessment of property, boards of equalization, and certification of assessors; and providing for an effective date."

To Whom This May Concern:

The Haines Borough Assembly is gratified that the experiences of residents in our Borough, statewide and nationwide regarding skyrocketing property assessments have garnered the attention of Alaska's Legislature.

With dedicated efforts of concerned citizens to identify changes to improve the assessment system, and commitment from Borough Administration to carry out these changes, we can advance so far. However, all municipalities must adhere to State statute and proposed changes to HB 347 and SB 242 will benefit property owners and municipalities by clarifying State requirements.

The Haines Borough Assembly supports SB 242 as it is currently written. We are, however, concerned the amendment to HB 347 requiring an assessor to meet in person with appellants does not allow the flexibility of a teleconference or videoconference meeting. Where out-of-town contract assessors are employed (as they are in the Haines Borough presently), we are concerned that this requirement might not recognize that the assessor is not continuously available in the community.

On behalf of the Haines Borough Assembly,

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Mayor Tom Morphet