

Alaska Fire Chiefs Association
Resolution 2008-02

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING HOUSE BILL 370, "AN ACT RELATING TO FORESTED LAND MANAGEMENT AND PROTECTION FROM WILDLAND FIRE AND OTHER DESTRUCTIVE AGENTS; CHANGING THE TERM 'FOREST FIRE' to 'WILDLAND FIRE' WHERE IT APPEARS IN THE ALASKA STATUTES; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.";

WHEREAS: Under existing statute the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is mandated to “provide protection commensurate with the value of the resources at risk, for the natural resources and watersheds on land that is owned privately, by the state or by a municipality, and

WHEREAS: This language implies that fire management decisions and appropriate fire management response will be based on the values of natural resources that are threatened by wildland fire, and

WHEREAS: the Attorney General examined the Division of Forestry statutory responsibility and found that DNR’s decision making process focuses on the risk to natural resources without consideration for the values of developed private property, and

WHEREAS: House Bill 370 would amend AS 41.15.010 to allow for consideration of all resource values, both natural and cultural, when making wildland fire management decisions on private, municipal or state lands, and

WHEREAS: The updated language would also align this statute with the Alaska Interagency Wildland Fire Management Plan (AIWFMP), which has been in effect since 1985,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the Alaska Fire Chiefs Association supports passage of House Bill 370 amending AS 41.15.010 and providing for an effective date.

Adopted this 21st day of February 2008 at the annual spring conference in Juneau, Alaska.

Attested by:

Doug Schrage, Alaska Fire Chief’s Association President