



## Rabbit Creek Community Council

1057 West Fireweed Lane, Suite 100, Anchorage AK 99503



March 18, 2015

Senator Cathy Geissel  
Alaska Senate District N

Dear Sen. Geissel,

At our March 12 meeting, the Council's members voted without objection to oppose your Senate Bill 45. We find that SB 45 constitutes state overreach.

The Council notes that you made no mention of this bill in your "community council newsletter" sent to us; and the Council's e-mail requesting an explanation is still unanswered.

The Council's opposition is based on the following:

1. SB 45 violates the right of Anchorage Hillside residents to decide by dual majority vote whether to create a service/taxation district. The right to vote on annexations into service districts is guaranteed by the Municipal Charter and by the Hillside District Plan (with a very limited exception for fire service areas). Your bill is an end-run around our right to vote on this issue.
2. We see no evidence that Senate N constituents were consulted about this bill. There is a consistent record of public opposition to this sort of maneuver over past decades. Recently, Anchorage voters defended their right to vote on service areas, opposing Mayor Sullivan's effort to amend the Municipal Charter to allow the administration to draw service area boundaries. The Mayor's effort, AO 2013-15 on the April 2013 municipal ballot, failed resoundingly (25,620 against, 14,015 for).
3. Senate Bill 45 would create an unacceptable precedent of strong-arm tactics that could deter Hillside voters from approving a much-needed road/drainage/trails service area, as recommended in the Hillside District Plan. The planning for such a district—by a citizens' steering committee-- has been funded by the legislature and is underway.
4. SB 45 has many false and misleading assertions, such as overstating the amount of money that could be collected from a Parks and Rec service district tax, and erroneously claiming that the landowners in that area pay no municipal taxes.

Rabbit Creek Community Council opposes SB 45. Please note that our members have often supported funding for parks, but they object to the state's imposition of a tax district when there is a process for local self-determination. We still request a conversation on this, best achieved if you can attend or phone in to our April 9 Council meeting.

Signed, Nancy Pease, Co-Chair

Cc: Rep Mike Hawker, HALO, FCC

