

March 19, 1981

Don Bennett, Co-chairman  
Senate Finance Committee  
Pouch V  
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Honorable Co-chairman:

In its March meeting, the Alaska Water Resources Board discussed Senate Bill 42, which proposed a minor change to future Village Safe Water facilities. The Board supports the change and the flexibility it will supply the program.

During the discussion all Board members expressed concern that adequate money be appropriated for operation and maintenance of these facilities once they are built. The Board is aware that many villages are unable to pay the high costs often associated with maintaining public facilities in rural areas.

Since a portion of the Village Safe Water program is now being reexamined by SB 42, the Water Resources Board encourages the Alaska State Senate to concurrently examine the possibility of providing a mechanism for regular appropriations for continuing operation and maintenance costs for each facility that is constructed.

Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,

Richard H. Sims  
Chairman

cc: Bush Caucus