



Alaska State Legislature House and Senate Democrats

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Senate Democrats Stand Up for Local Control

SCR12 forces mandatory boroughs, takes away local control

JUNEAU – Senate Democrats today strongly argued against adoption of Senate Concurrent Resolution 12. Sponsored by Senator Gary Wilken (R-Fairbanks), SCR12 forces mandatory borough incorporation on four of the least populated areas of Alaska.

“I would prefer that boroughs incorporate voluntarily,” said Senator Georgianna Lincoln (D-Rampart). “SCR12 imposes a new level of government on people without their consent. I urge the Senate to vote against this ill-advised bill.”

“The people of my district don’t appreciate government crammed down their throats,” said Senator Donny Olson (D-Nome). “Nobody who is affected by SCR12 asked for it. When you don’t have local support, the people feel bullied.”

“A vote for this bill generates more government, a whole new layer of government,” said Senator Lyman Hoffman (D-Bethel). “A vote against this resolution is a vote for less government.”

“Here is yet another example of this legislature taking away local control,” said Senator Gretchen Guess (D-Anchorage).

“American government is supposed to be ‘of, by, and for’ the people,” said Senator Hollis French (D-Anchorage). “This resolution fails on all counts. It’s not ‘of,’ ‘by,’ or ‘for’ the people. It is, in fact, the opposite.”

Senators Johnny Ellis (D-Anchorage), Kim Elton (D-Juneau) and Bettye Davis (D-Anchorage) also voted against the resolution. Senate President Gene Therriault (R-North Pole) joined with Democratic legislators in opposing SCR12, but the measure passed 11 to 9 and now heads to the House of Representatives.

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Sen. Bettye Davis, Sen. Johnny Ellis, Sen. Kim Elton, Sen. Lyman Hoffman, Sen. Hollis French, Sen. Gretchen Guess, Sen. Georgianna Lincoln, Sen. Donny Olson, Rep. Ethan Berkowitz, Rep. Sharon Cissna, Rep. Harry Crawford, Rep. Eric Croft, Rep. Les Gara, Rep. Max Gruenberg, Rep. David Guttenberg, Rep. Reggie Joule, Rep. Mary Kapsner, Rep. Beth Kerttula, Rep. Albert Kookesh, Rep. Carl Moses