



## KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

### Office of Superintendent

Clayton Holland, Superintendent

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April 20, 2022

House Finance Committee  
State Capitol  
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: Support for HB 350: School Bond Debt Reimbursement

Dear House Finance Committee Members:

The Kenai Peninsula Borough School District supports HB 350, and we urge you to pass this bill, this session.

Forty-two schools on the Kenai Peninsula educate over 8,000 students in 17 diverse communities, and our deferred maintenance projects are varied and necessary. Many KPBSD schools are on the road system, while others are only accessible by boat or plane.

The average age of our school facilities is 46 years. Our oldest facility has portions that are currently 87 years old, and 38% (16 schools) of our schools have building sections exceeding 50 years. Our district includes schools in urban, rural, and remote areas; 42 schools include just under 1.9 million square feet of classrooms, and a replacement value slightly greater than \$713 million dollars.

Aging facilities and building systems take additional effort to maintain especially in a large spread out school district like the KPBSD, and this is why DEED recommended school districts create a renewal and replacement schedule. Spending hours and funds to repair what should have been replaced is not efficient. Thus, developing and implementing a major maintenance program helps fund the replacement of these important systems and structures that provide a safe location for learning.

It is a positive step for many school districts in Alaska to maintain their aging school buildings. Failure to address the deferred maintenance backlog increases the backlog of work, and with the addition of inflation, the financial burden to the borough and taxpayer.

A 2021-2022 legislative priority from our Board of Education is to review and reconsider the state's bond reimbursement program moratorium and ensure the existing state's bond reimbursement program is funded. Passage of HB 350 would lift the moratorium adopted with HB 106 in April of 2020.

Thank you for moving HB 350 forward this legislative session. For many months, we have worked collaboratively with the Kenai Peninsula Borough to identify priority projects to include in a much-needed local bond package for the October 4, 2022, election. HB 350 would assist passage of this bond, and protect the investment in our school buildings through continued maintenance and construction, ensuring the safety of the children and staff who attend them every day.

Sincerely,

Clayton Holland  
Superintendent

The mission of the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District is to empower all learners to positively shape their futures.  
ANCHOR POINT COOPER LANDING HOMER HOPE KACHEMAK SELO KENAI MOOSE PASS NANWALEK NIKISKI NIKOLAEVSK NINILCHIK  
PORT GRAHAM RAZDOLNA SELDOVIA SEWARD SOLDOTNA STERLING TUSTUMENA TYONEK VOZNESENKA