MEMORANDUM

TO: Gary Knopp, Assembly President
    Members, Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly

FROM: Bill Smith, Assembly Member
       Dave Carey, Mayor

DATE: February 17, 2011

SUBJECT: Resolution 2011-015, Regarding FY 2012 Funding for the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District

The end of February will bring us the 4th Quarter sales tax results for calendar year 2010, and the Assessors statement for real property values as of January 1, 2011. These results will give the Assembly up-to-date information on potential revenues for FY 2012.

By March 1st, I hope to have additional details on timing options and funding options for the solid waste transfer station planned for the southern peninsula.

This resolution designates the KPB School District FY 2012 funding floor at the same amount committed to the District for FY 2011. Because state statute requires the funding floor is to be furnished to the District after they forward their budget to the Assembly, and because other line item details will not be available until after the district provides its budget, a second resolution will be submitted within 30 days after the District submits its budget to the assembly. It is anticipated the School Board will forward its budget request on April 5th.

An additional provision in AS 14.20.140 requires that tenured teachers who are to be laid off or not retained for the following year be given written notice before March 16.

I am supporting bringing this Resolution to the Assembly on March 1st, in order to give the Assembly the earliest possible opportunity to set the School District funding floor. Setting the funding floor early in the year helps the District when they assemble their budget, helps reduce or avoid staff layoffs, and in general reduces stress in District planning.

It is possible that additional District funding may be dedicated as further information becomes available later this year. If conditions are favorable, the Assembly can move to increase funding for the District.
The initial goal is to fund the District at last year’s level, if we know how we can fund the transfer station and still maintain an appropriate fund balance. On March 1st we may not know enough information to insure reaching this goal, so the Assembly may need to postpone this resolution to the subsequent meeting on April 5th. If necessary, additional postponement may be affected.