Office of the Mayor

Date:

April 13, 2022

To:

Anchorage Assembly

From:

Mayor Dave Bronson

Subject:

Veto of AR 2022-112(S)

Pursuant to Section 2.30.100 of the Anchorage Municipal Code (AMC) and Section 5.02 of the Municipal Charter (Charter), I hereby veto AR 2022-112(S), passed at the Assembly's regular meeting of April 12, 2022.

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I have reviewed the resolution and heard the arguments presented for and against the resolution. It is apparent that Anchorage Senate District Revision Option #2 (Option #2) before the Alaska Redistricting Board unlawfully reduces the representation of Chugiak-Eagle River in the Alaska Legislature's State Senate. For this reason, this veto should not be overridden.

The Chugiak-Eagle River area has, for several decades, been represented by two senators in the State Senate and, at least, three representatives in the State House. Option #2 significantly reduces the historical level of representation for the Chugiak-Eagle River area. Chugiak-Eagle River has already lost one representative in the Alaska House of Representatives in the recent redistricting efforts. Further reduction in representation in the Alaska Legislature would leave Chugiak-Eagle River underrepresented in the state capital.

Anchorage Senate District Revision Option #3B (Option #3B) allows for a demographically accurate representation of the Chugiak-Eagle River area. That map maintains the split of Eagle River, pairing the district with the South Anchorage/Girdwood district. The Eagle River and South Anchorage map is preferrable because both communities face similar issues, like road service areas, fire dangers, and bears.

For the reasons stated above, I hereby veto AR 2022-112(S). I encourage the Assembly to review these concerns and ask that they adopt a resolution encouraging the Alaska Redistricting Board to adopt Option #3B.