

By: Alex Strawn
Introduced: April 3, 2017
Public Hearing: April 17, 2017
and May 1, 2017
Action: Failed

**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
PLANNING COMMISSION RESOLUTION NO. 17-15**

A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH PLANNING COMMISSION RECOMMENDING APPROVAL OF AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING MSB CHAPTER 8.07 LAND APPLICATION OF BIOSOLIDS, PROHIBITING THE LAND APPLICATION OF BIOSOLIDS WITHIN THE BOROUGH.

WHEREAS, on March 21, 2017 the Assembly referred ordinance 17-029 to the Planning Commission for 90 days; and

WHEREAS, the commission has carefully considered the ordinance and held a public hearing on April 17, 2017, and May 1, 2017; and

WHEREAS, federal and state regulations do not address the likely presence of potentially toxic organic compounds within treated sludge originating from a variety of sources such as pharmaceuticals, personal care products, and flame retardants; and

WHEREAS, a 2009 EPA study of 74 randomly selected treatment works confirmed the presence of several unregulated metals, as well as a variety of potentially harmful organic compounds such as semi-volatile organic compounds, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, pharmaceuticals, steroids, hormones, and flame retardants; and

WHEREAS, several compounds found within biosolids have been shown to persist unaltered through typical treatment processes; while other

substances, such as surfactants, break down into more toxic constituents;
and

WHEREAS, the potential effects of the wide range of organic compounds on humans and the environment is unresolved at this time. Moreover, testing for potentially harmful organic compounds is difficult and expensive; and

WHEREAS, research also shows that a large variety of biological and chemical contaminants may become airborne during the land application of biosolids, posing a risk to nearby residents; and

WHEREAS, there is a growing body of evidence that state and federal regulations are insufficient to adequately protect public safety and environmental quality; and

WHEREAS, land application of biosolids on agricultural farms within the Borough will negatively affect the brand and reputation of all farms within the Borough.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Planning Commission hereby recommends approval of an ordinance prohibiting the land application of biosolids within the borough.

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ADOPTED by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Planning Commission
this ____ day of ____, 2017.

COLLEEN VAGUE, Chair

ATTEST

MARY BRODIGAN, Planning Clerk

(SEAL)

YES: Chesbro

NO: Vague, Anderson, Healy, Elder, Glashan, and Rauchenstein