Dear Friends,

COVID-19 information

The novel coronavirus, known as COVID-19, is currently a priority concerning the state of our public health. We have taken necessary preemptive action to minimize the impact of the virus by working with the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services and the Alaska State Public Health Laboratory. This has included the development of testing protocols and the implementation of testing locations.

To respect the privacy of their patients, providers are considering only critical cases for testing. For current information from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) you can visit the website: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html

SB 240

This bill seeks to ensure ballot initiative language that appears before voters at the ballot box is the same as the language circulated during the signature-gathering phase and to restore the legislature's important role in the initiative process.

Ruebelmann, Mel Bechberger.

The Senate amended and passed SB 80 on May 2, 2019 by a vote of 15-4 and has been referred to the Senate Rules Committee and anticipate it will be heard on the Senate Floor soon.

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Sincerely,

Senator Stephen Revak

Revak Report

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State of Alaska Center for Disease Control and Prevention

Thank you,

Senator Stephen Revak

Our budget has been primarily funded by revenues sourced directly from the oil industry. These revenues have enabled our state to invest in a host of projects, including education, public safety, and healthcare. However, the price of oil has declined by nearly in half since 2013, the primary source of our state's revenue. As a result, we need to ensure that our budget is well vetted and provides meaningful resources to those who need them most. This will require difficult choices and tough decisions to maintain a rightsized government.

Our budget reflects Alaskans' priorities, including public safety, natural resource development, and education. Our 2020 budget includes $22.90. This ranks Alaska as the second most expensive state to live in from a residential electric bill.

The national average cost of electricity is $12.69 per kilowatt hour. Alaska's cost is nearly double that, which is not sustainable. The high cost of electricity is a reflection of the high cost of production, transportation, and delivery. We need to continue to pursue hydro-electric infrastructure projects that are both cost-effective and environmentally sustainable.

One of the most pressing issues facing our state is the potential for a national recession. The earnings of many Alaskans rely on the health of the stock market. Due to a recent decline in the stock market, some Alaskans are facing difficulty paying their bills. This is a concern not only for those who are unemployed or underemployed, but also for those who are working and have been laid off.

Our budget includes funds for emergency room physicians,EDUCATION, and emergency preparedness. These investments are critical to ensuring that Alaskans have access to quality healthcare.

Our budget also includes funding for education, including college and university scholarships, gifted education, and rural public safety.

Additionally, our budget includes funding for wildlife management, which is essential for the health of our environment and the vitality of our communities.

We are facing a global pandemic that is affecting every aspect of our lives. We need to work together to ensure that our state is prepared for any future challenges. Together, we can create a more sound, prosperous future for all Alaskans.

We must encourage the production of new oil to fill our pipeline and provide new wealth for Alaska - not throw down a roadblock of new taxes that will drive investment elsewhere.

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