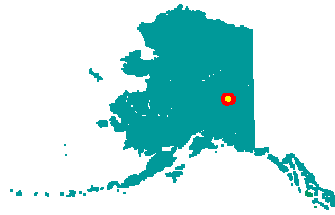


Legislative Update

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Today: Friday, Feb. 20, 2009: 59 Days remaining of the 1st Session of the 26th Legislature

In The News

Unanimous support for Ground-based Midcourse Defense System

On February 19 the Alaska State House of Representatives unanimously passed House Joint Resolution (HJR) 12. The Resolution, urges the United States Congress to continue funding for the Ground-based Midcourse Defense System.

This system has a statewide economic impact of nearly \$250 million and provides over 700 jobs in Alaska, 200 of which are Alaska National Guard soldiers. Most of these jobs are based in the Delta Junction area with civilian contractors who come from across Interior Alaska, some even as far as Valdez. HJR 12 now moves to the Senate for consideration.

House Passes "Do Not Call" Legislation

The Alaska State House unanimously passed legislation adding cellular and mobile telephones to the Federal Trade Commission's Do Not Call Registry on February 18. HB 93 amends the state's definition of telephone solicitation, mirroring the FTC language. HB 93 now moves to the Alaska State Senate for consideration.

Legislative Committee Approves Alternative Energy Projects

The Legislative Budget and Audit Committee (LB&A), a joint committee of the state House and Senate, gave its approval to funding almost 95 million dollars worth of alternative energy projects around the state on Tuesday, February 17.

The LB&A Committee was following through on the plan approved by the legislature and the Governor last year, when House Bill 152 became law. This law created a state renewable energy grant program. At its meeting yesterday, the committee approved a list of 77 projects around the state, including wind farms, hydroelectric facilities and other innovative, alternative energy projects. Work on these projects will begin shortly, as early as this spring.

Locally, **Alaska Wind Power, LLC**, an independent power producer, was awarded funds for avian studies amounting to \$105,000 for a 40-50MW wind farm project under development near Delta that would tie into the GVEA grid.

The **Delta/Greely School District** was awarded \$2 million for a Wood Chip Boiler Heating System to heat 77,000 sq. ft. of educational space. This project is linked to a previously funded renovation and energy upgrade of the Delta HS that includes the heating system and the external thermal envelope. Together the projects will result in the development of a fully functional, energy efficient facility that uses local sources of renewable energy. There is substantial accessible biomass wood supply in the upper Tanana from sawmills, two pellet mills in development, and state-owned forest land. Tok Umbrella Corp received a grant for a whole tree chipper which can potentially be used to supply fuel for this project.

Alaska Environmental Power, LLC, requested funding for the construction of a 2 MW wind farm (20 x 100 kW wind turbines) near Delta. This project will consist of twenty (20) wind turbines to make a collective 2MW "wind farm" in Delta Junction and will be the first project of its kind to integrate into the Railbelt Grid using an "experimental" program by Golden Valley Electric Association (GVEA), by using "proven" cold-weather technology (Northwind 100 turbines with direct-drive motors) which have already been successfully used in Alaska's cold weather, as well as a proven "test" turbine (the first of twenty 100kW turbines) at the same location just erected and successfully tested by GVEA. This will serve all the communities that are on the Railbelt Grid and can produce enough electricity to power 600 homes each year without any emissions or environmental harm of any kind. Award amount for this project was \$2 million.

A complete list of the projects approved by the committee is available at http://www.akenergyauthority.org/RE_Fund_Applications.html.

Teleconferenced Committee Meetings

If anyone is interested in participating in any of the teleconferenced committee meetings listed below, please contact the Delta Junction LIO. You may call us at 895-4236 or email DeltaJunction_LIO@legis.state.ak.us

You may also check Gavel to Gavel for any meetings that are televised or audio streamed at: www.ktoo.org/gavel/stream.cfm

Monday, February 23

8:00 AM (H) Education Standing Committee

Department Of Education and Early Development Discussion on Governor's Proposed Pre-Kindergarten Pilot Program, HB 23 Class Size Reduction Grants. Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled.

8:00 AM (S) Education Standing Committee

SB 102 Raise Comp. School Attendance Age/Truancy, SB 33 Postsecondary Scholarships, Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled.

9:00 AM (S) Finance Standing Committee

SB 115 Rural Energy Assistance Program, SB 116 Approp: Rural Energy Assistance, SB 93 Municipal Air Quality, Property Tax Credit, Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled.

1:00 PM (H) Judiciary Standing Committee

HB 9 Capital Punishment. Public Testimony Will Be Limited To 3 Minutes. Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled.

1:00 PM (H) Resources Standing Committee

Presentation On Critical Terrain Data, Requirements For Resource Development, In Alaska By David F. Maune, PhD. HJR 7 Endorsing ANWR Leasing, HJR 18 Opposing ANWR Wilderness Designation. Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled.

1:30 (S) Health & Social Services Standing Committee

SB 98 Medical Patient Billing Disclosures, SB 52 Salvia Divinorum as Controlled Substance. Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled.

1:30 PM (S) Judiciary Standing Committee

SB 85 Alcohol: Local Option/Licensing/Minors

3:15 PM (H) Labor & Commerce Standing Committee

HB 29 Alaska Minimum Wage, HB 108 Property Foreclosures And Executions. Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled.

3:30 PM (S) Resources Standing Committee

Updated Information on the Susitna Hydro, Project Alaska Energy Authority; Proposed Chakachamna Hydro Project; TDX Power: Nick Goodman, Pres., and Eric Yould, Program Director.

5:00 PM (H) Fish & Game Finance Subcommittee

Marine Mammals Research Program, Fy10 Governor's Amendments/Wrap Up.

5:00 PM (H/S) Legislative Council Joint Committee

Late Per Diem Approvals, Ratification Of Charitable Event, Cutting Edge Development Inc., Contract Amendment, Legislative Council Fy10 Budget Proposal, Travel And Moving Policy Amendment, Revisor's Bill Introduction, Update On Legislative Commemorative Coins, Other Business.

Tuesday, February 24

7:00 AM (H) Transportation & Public Facilities Finance Subcommittee

Review Governor's Proposed Amendments & Discuss Any Issues W/ Dept. Overview Of Fy10 Operating Budget.

8:00 AM (H) Community & Regional Affairs Standing Committee

HB 74 Coastal Management Program. Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled.

8:00 AM (H) State Affairs Standing Committee

HB 92 Divest Investments In Sudan. Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled.

9:00 AM (H/S) Select Committee on Legislative Ethics Joint Committee

Full Committee: Open Session, Election Of Chairs, Public Comment, Chair/Staff Report, Budget, Sanctioned Charity Events, Exempt Positions, 2009 Suggested Legislation, Advisory Opinion 08-05 State Facilities, Advisory Opinion 09-01, Newsletters, Executive Session: Advisory Opinion 09-02, Public Session, Other Business.

9:00 AM (S) State Affairs Standing Committee

SJR 6 Oppose HR 45 In Congress, SB 50 Iditarod Registration Plates, SB 19 Complaints Against Peace Officers/VPSOS. Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled.

10:15 (H) Fisheries Special Committee

Confirmation Hearing: Commercial Fisheries Limited Entry Commission. HB 43 Geoduck Aquatic Farming/Seed Transfer.

1:00 PM (H) Transportation Standing Committee

HB 133 Traffic Control Devices/Hwy Designations Federal Stimulus Package Update By DOT. Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled.

1:00 PM (H) Military & Veterans' Affairs Special Committee

HCR 7 Decoration Of Honor, HJR 10 Veterans' Health Care, HJR 16 Disabled Veterans Procurement Preference.

1:00 PM (S) Transportation Standing Committee

SB 111 Intrastate Air Service Certificates, SB 59 Low- Speed Motor Vehicles, SB 51 Motor Vehicle Window Tinting.

1:30 PM (H) Finance Standing Committee

Confirmation Hearing: Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority Board Of Trustees. HR 6 Develop Mental Health Trust Land. Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled.

1:30 PM (S) Labor & Commerce Standing Committee

SB 1 Alaska Minimum Wage, SB 84 Aidea: Bonding Limits; Confidentiality. Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled.

3:00 PM (H) Health & Social Services Standing Committee

Telemedicine - Stuart Ferguson, ANTHC; Melody Price-Yonts, SEARHC.

3:00 PM (H) Energy Special Committee

Presentation By Bob Pickett, Chairman of the Regulatory Commission of Alaska: How Agency Regulates Existing Sources Of Energy & Its Potential Role In Regulating New Sources Of Energy In Alaska.

4:00 PM (S) Natural Resources Finance Subcommittee

Continuation of Departmental Overview: Division Of Parks And Outdoor Recreation; State Pipeline Coordinator's Office; Division Of Coastal And Ocean Management. Testimony <Invitation Only>

5:15 PM (H) Econ. Dev., Trade & Tourism Special Committee

Alaska Ship & Dry Dock, Presentation By Doug Ward, Shipyard Development, Discussion to Follow About Future Public/Private Partnerships and, Workforce Development to Further Build Alaska's Economy.

Wednesday, February 25

8:00 AM (H) Education Standing Committee

Presentation By UA President Mark, Hamilton: University Of Alaska Overview, HB 126 Foster Care/CINA/Education Of homeless, Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled.

8:00 AM (H/S) Health & Social Services Standing Committee

Key Campaign.

9:00 AM (S) Finance Standing Committee

SB 45 Veterans' Cemeteries/Fund/License Plates, SB 13 Medical Assistance Eligibility, SB 87 Medical Assistance Eligibility. Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled.

9:30 AM (H) Public Safety Finance Subcommittee

Overview: Village Public Safety Program

1:00 PM (H) Judiciary Standing Committee

HB 9 Capital Punishment, Public Testimony Will Be Limited to 3 Minutes. Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled.

1:30 PM (H) Finance Standing Committee

HB 109 Educ. Loans: Supplemental & Family. Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled.

1:30 PM (S) Health & Social Services Standing Committee

SB 35 Extend Suicide Prevention Council, SB 96 Child Support/ Cash Medical Support. Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled.

1:30 PM (S) Judiciary Standing Committee

SB 110 Preservation of Evidence. Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled.

3:00 PM (H/S) Resources Standing Committee

Presentation: Alaska Mining. Testimony <Invitation Only>

3:30 PM (S) Administration Finance Subcommittee

Review of Division of Motor Vehicles, Division of General Services, and Public Broadcasting. Testimony <Invitation Only>

5:00 PM (H/S) Legislative Budget & Audit Joint Committee

Rescheduled To 03/02/09, Preliminary Audit - Fy10 Statewide, Single Audit, Other Committee Business. Testimony <Invitation Only>

Thursday, February 26

8:00 AM (H) Community & Regional Affairs Standing Committee

HB 10 Municipal Taxes: Costs/Exemptions, HB 106 Village & Regional Public Safety Officers, HJR 15 Change Name Of Mt. McKinley To Denali. Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled.

8:00 AM (H) State Affairs Standing Committee

HB 14 Alaskan Malamute As State Dog, HB 136 Public Records Exceptions. Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled.

8:00 AM (S) World Trade, Tech, Innovations Special Committee

Alternative Energy Opportunities and Technologies in Arctic And Sub-Arctic Alaska. Presenter: Mead Treadwell, Chair U.S. Arctic Research Commission.

9:00 AM (S) State Affairs Standing Committee

SB 49 Blood Donation Awareness Fund, SB 29 Naming Thomas B. Stewart Leg. Office Bldg. Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled.

10:15 AM (H) Fisheries Special Committee

"An act repealing the termination of licensing and regulation of sport fishing operators and sport fishing guides and licensing and registration of sport fishing vessels; and providing for an effective date." Pending introduction & referral. HCR 6 Cook Inlet Salmon Task Force. Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled.

12:00 PM (H/S) Fish Caucus Other Committee

Alaska Seafood in the Global Food Aid Program: New Markets, Products and Revenues.

1:30 PM (H) Finance Standing Committee

HB 63 Council Domestic Violence: Members, Staff. Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled.

1:30 PM (S) Labor & Commerce Standing Committee

SB 23 Repeal Defined Contribution Retirement Plans, HB 104 Workers Comp. Medical Treatment Fees, Pending Referral. Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled.

3:00 PM (H) Health & Social Services Standing Committee

HB 2 Birth Certificate for Stillbirth, HB 26 Medicaid for Adult Dental Services.

3:00 PM (H/S) Energy Special Committee

Work Session: Comprehensive Energy Plan Presentations By: David Hobbs & Jim Meitl, Cambridge Energy Research Associates: Creating a Statewide Energy Plan, Darrell Smith, Black Lion "Energae": Algae To Oil Research, Gwen Holdman, Director, Alaska. Center for Energy & Power.

Friday, February 27

8:00 AM (H) Education Standing Committee

Overview: Correspondence and Home School Programs. Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled.

8:00 AM (S) Education Standing Committee

SB 18 Postsecondary Medical Education Program. Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled.

9:00 AM (S) Finance Standing Committee

SB 24 Louis Miller Bridge, SB 25 Richard Dewey Duvall Ferry Terminal, SB 57 Charter School Funding, Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled.

11:00 AM (S) Energy Special Committee

SB 31 Geothermal Elec. Prod. Tax Credit, HCR 2 In-State Gas Pipeline, HCR 3 In-State Gas Pipeline, HCR 4 In-State Gas Pipeline, HCR 5 In-State Gas Pipeline.

1:30 PM (S) Health & Social Services Standing Committee

SB 47 Statute of Limitation for Sexual Offenses. Bills Previously Heard/Scheduled.

3:30 PM (S) Resources Standing Committee

Overview: Pebble Mine Permitting and Associated Issues. Testimony <Invitation Only>.

Saturday, February 28

12:00 PM (H) Energy Special Committee

Held in Bethel at City Council Chambers. AEA Statewide Energy Report Public Testimony on Energy Plan

DELTA JUNCTION LEGISLATORS

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