February 21, 2020

Midsession, or day 45 of day 90, is coming into focus. The House is proceeding with debate on the operating budget and we look to be on schedule to deliver a budget to the Senate giving them plenty of time for consideration. As the pace here picks up, here are some items you might be interested in following. And don’t forget to check out “On Deck” to see what’s in store for next week.

- The House Finance Committee is now taking public testimony for the FY21 operating budget. Your testimony, your stories, and your input help us craft a budget that fits the Alaska we want. If you’ve got some time, please consider testifying from 5pm to 8pm tonight or between 12 and 3pm on Saturday by calling 844-586-9085. You can also email your testimony for the record at housefinance@akleg.gov

- This past Tuesday was an historic event. Our committee heard powerful testimony from across the state about the importance of HB221, a bill providing for state recognition of federally recognized
tribes. As I’ve said, I view this bill as watershed legislation that will change the state’s relationship with tribes going into the future. I am excited to see the bill move from committee and head to its next stop in the House Community and Regional Affairs Committee. You can watch the historic and powerful hearing here.

• I was pleased to welcome US Senator Lisa Murkowski (R – Alaska) back to her old stomping grounds to deliver her annual joint address to the legislature. She spoke to the need for funding REAL ID programs for rural Alaska and variety of other issues. You can find Senator Murkowski’s address here and her press conference here.

• I’m tracking legislation by Rep. Knopp, HB203 relating to the transportation of live crab which would remove restrictions on live transportation of crab. The bill would allow for surface transport of live crab after it’s been landed in an Alaskan port and recorded on an AK Department of Fish and Game fish ticket. I look forward to updating you on the progress of this bill. You can watch the most recent hearing on it here, and you can find lots of documents related to the bill here.

• The House Special Committee on Tribal Affairs held a joint hearing with the House State Affairs Committee to hear about the implementation of REAL ID. I have real concerns over how this program is being implemented across rural Alaska. I hope our message came through to the administration and I look forward to a more robust process to enroll all Alaskans into the program so they can fly come October. You can watch that hearing here, and you can check out the presentation for yourself here.

• The House introduced a resolution this week, House Concurrent Resolution 13, stating our intent to protect the Permanent Fund and the Permanent Fund Dividend for future generations. This can only be done with wise fiscal management. With the Permanent Fund’s earnings now more critically important to the state than ever, we must turn our close attention to management of the fund so that all may share in its benefits. You can read that resolution here.

Please don’t hesitate to get in touch with any issues or concerns and remember, I work for you.

All the best,

[Signature]

Meeting with Mayor Osterback and members of the Aleutians East Borough
On Deck Next Week...

Next week House Finance is scheduled to meet
Monday – Friday 1:30 PM
The committee’s main focus will be on **HB 205** (Operating Budget)
and **HB 206** (Mental Health Budget), there will be public testimony this week on the budget.

*Hearts full as members from across party join together to honor Alaska legend Elizabeth Peratrovich and the minting of a US coin with her image*

**Monday, February 24**
- **House Resources** – 1:00 PM
  - **HB 138** – National Resource Water Designation
- **House Judiciary** – 1:00 PM
  - **HB 124** – Electronic Documents and Notarization
  - **HB 201** – Defense of Public Officer: Ethics Complaint
- **House Labor and Commerce** – 3:15 PM
  - **HB 84** – Workers’ Comp: Police, Fire, EMT, Paramedic
  - **HB 215** – Employer’s Unemployment Insurance Rate
  - **HB 235** – Alaska Workforce Investment Board: Allocations
Tuesday, February 25
House Community & Regional Affairs – 8:00 AM
Presentation: “The Community Services Fund; A Concept” by Nils Andaessen, Alaska Municipal League
House Tribal Affairs – 8:00 AM
Presentation: Indian Self-Determination Act
Legislative Council – 9:00 AM
Oil & Gas Initiative Hearing per AS 24.05.186 by Cori Mills, Dept of Law; Legislative Legal; Dept of Rev
House Energy - 10:15 AM
HB 151 – Electric Reliability Organizations
HB 37 – Exemption: Contractors, Electrical Administrators
House Fisheries – 11:00 AM
HB 199 – Fisheries Rehabilitation Permits
Consideration of Governor’s Appointees: Board of Fisheries, Fishermen’s Fund Advisory & Appeals Council
House Transportation – 1:00 PM
HB 253 – Sale, Transfer, or Disposal of Ferries
House State Affairs – 3:00 PM
HB 239 – Establish State Lottery Boards/Lotteries
HB 190 – PFD Allowable Absences
SB 80 – Initiative Severability
House Health & Social Services – 3:00 PM
Alaska Heath Care: A Changing Landscape by Jared Kosin, Alaska State Hospital & Nursing Home Assoc.
Alaska Coalition on Housing & Homelessness by Michelle DeWitt, Bethel Community Services

Wednesday, February 26
House Education – 8:00 AM
HB 236 – Increase Base Student Allocation
House Judiciary – 1:00 PM
*pending referral – An Act requiring background investigations on VPSOs
HB 146 – Motor Vehicle Dealers: Application, Insurance
House Resources – 1:00 PM
Presentation: Analysis of “Fair Share Act” Initiative by Rich & Christina Ruggiero, IN3NERGY
House Labor & Commerce – 3:15 PM
HB 27 – Regulation of Flame Retardant Chemicals
HB 84 – Workers’ Comp: Police, Fire, EMT, Paramedic
HB 232 – Municipal Tax Credits
HB 166 – Telephone Cooperatives; Telecommunications
House Resources – Joint with Senate Resources – 5:00 PM
Overview: BP/Hilcorp Transaction

Thursday, February 27
House Community & Regional Affairs – 8:00 AM
HB 221 – State Recognition of Tribes
HB 193 – Second Verse of Alaska’s State Song
House Tribal Affairs – 8:00 AM
Presentation: Equity in Rural Alaska
House Fisheries – 10:00 AM
HB 247 – Sport Fishing Enhancement Surcharge
House Health & Social Services – 3:00 PM
HB 242 – Prescription of Opioids; Database
HB 189 – Child in Need of Aid; Notice of Placement
HB 184 – Controlled Substance Data: Exempt Veterinarian
House State Affairs – 3:00 PM
HB 148 – Marriage Witnesses

Friday, February 28
House Education – 8:00 AM
HB 181 – Public Schools: Mental Health Education
HB 155 – Alaska Performance Scholarship; Eligibility
HB 136 – Public Schools: Social/Emotional Learning
HB 260 – State Education Policy: Early Childhood
House Labor & Commerce – 3:15 PM
HB 24 – Limited Teacher Certificates; Languages
HB 91 – Naturopaths: Licensing; Practice
HB 235 – Alaska Workforce Investment Board: Allocations
HB 84 – Workers’ Comp: Police, Fire, EMT, Paramedic

Miscellaneous Meetings
Wednesday, February 26th, 12:00 PM
Lunch & Learn – Overview of Cold Climate Housing Research Center’s research
Friday, February 28th, 12:00 PM
Lunch & Learn: The History & Operations of Gavel Alaska by KTOO

Speaking to the Alaska Municipal League who represents the unified voice of Alaska’s local governments