

From: pl hamlett [plhamlett@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2012 8:51 AM
To: info@communitycouncils.org
Subject: FW: From the Desk of Johnny Ellis: Fighting for the Best Interests of Alaska
Attachments: image009.jpg

Mark,

pls fwd to CPCC members

Thanks
PETER HAMLETT

From: Senator_Johnny_Ellis@legis.state.ak.us
To: Senator_Johnny_Ellis@legis.state.ak.us
Subject: From the Desk of Johnny Ellis: Fighting for the Best Interests of Alaska
Date: Fri, 16 Mar 2012 19:02:02 +0000

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**SENATOR
JOHNNY ELLIS**
**Working hard
Solving problems
Getting things**

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March 16th, 2012

FIGHTING FOR THE BEST INTERESTS OF ALASKA

*Oil tax progress, unmanned aerial drones, municipal elections,
snowfall dangers*

Friends and Neighbors,

For those interested in following the work of the Senate, be sure

done

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to regularly check the [Senate Bipartisan Working Group](#)'s "one-stop-shop" [website](#). For direct access to the Senate Bipartisan Working Group's website, try downloading the "Scan" app and scanning this QR code with your smartphone.



Oil Tax Progress

On Tuesday this week, Senator Paskvan introduced the [Senate's oil tax proposal](#) to the [Senate Finance Committee](#) with a [long quote spoken by Bob Bartlett](#) during Alaska's constitutional convention:

"This moment will be a critical one in Alaska's future history. Development must not be confused with exploitation at this time. The financial welfare of the future state and the well-being of its present and unborn citizens depend upon the wise administration and oversight of these developmental activities."

Bartlett predicted two primary dangers in regards to the development of Alaska's resources by Outside interests:

"...that of exploitation under the thin disguise of development. The taking of Alaska's mineral resources without leaving some reasonable return for the support of Alaska governmental services and the use of all the people of Alaska..."

"...that outside interests, determined to stifle any development in Alaska which might compete with their activities elsewhere, will attempt to acquire great areas of Alaska's public lands in order NOT to develop them until such time as...they see fit."

Wow. More than 50 years ago, Bartlett could already foresee the undue influence that corporations could have on well-being of the State by either exploiting or warehousing our resources. [This quote](#) is sticking with me as we review the proposal before the committee.



The [Senate Finance Committee](#) this week is hearing testimony on the Senate Resource Committee's [oil tax reform bill](#). Senator Ellis, along with his fellow Committee members, are doing due diligence to pass the best legislation possible for Alaskans.

Unmanned Aerial Drones Need Alaska's Clear Air Space

In [Senator Mark Begich's](#) annual address to the legislature last week he [challenged Alaska to provide support for an FAA center for Unmanned Aerial Vehicles](#) (UAV) in the state. This civilian base, known as a Center of Excellence, would provide research and development for UAV programs, which can assist in important activities such as firefighting, oil and gas exploration, and non-military security.

UAV's have already become an important part of Alaska's research capabilities, including [a program at the University of Alaska Fairbanks](#), where the Geophysical Institute has been using UAV technology for natural resource management surveys that might otherwise be too risky or time-consuming with manned aircraft.

This center would be an excellent source of Alaskan job creation and scientific research, as well as an opportunity to further develop Alaska's workforce in the fields of science, engineering, security and technology.



Senator Ellis was pleased to welcome dedicated members of the [Fairview Community Council](#) to discuss issues important to the Fairview neighborhood.

Municipal Elections

Just a reminder that Anchorage will be holding municipal elections in less than a month. On Tuesday, April 3rd, registered voters will be able to vote on [ballot propositions important to our city](#), as well as the Anchorage mayor, school board seats and service area seats. Make sure your voice is heard by requesting an [absentee ballot](#), [voting early](#) or going to your [polling location](#) on Election Day.

Are you interested in volunteering your time as an election worker? If so, call 243-VOTE (8683) and attend the [volunteer trainings](#) this week or next week at the [Loussac Public Library](#).



The [Senate Finance Corrections Subcommittee](#) is finalizing the budget for the [Department of Corrections](#) (DOC). Senator Ellis chairs this Subcommittee, as well as the [Department of Administration Subcommittee](#), and has been addressing concerns about shift changes and recidivism, among other issues, with DOC [Commissioner Joe Schmidt](#).

Snowfall Dangers

As you well know, Anchorage has received uncharacteristically high amounts of snowfall, which can create dangerous situations for Anchorage residents. Here are some things we will all want to keep in mind during these snowy days:

- *Monitor snow loads on your roof:* If your roof is flat, has a long overhang, or has areas of snow drifting, such as on parapets and lower roofs, you should contact an engineer at the [Municipality's Office of Building Safety](#) at 343-8211. Be sure to be aware of creaking, excess deflection in trusses or beams, and bowing of columns, as these could be signs of excess snow.
- *Keep the city posted on snow plowing:* If your street is unplowed or too narrow, don't let it go unnoticed! Contact [Street Maintenance](#) either by phone, 343-8277, or by filling out a [feedback form](#) to be sure that unsafe roads get attention.
- *Shovel your fire hydrants:* If your home is near a fire hydrant, be sure that it is uncovered at all times. Keeping fire hydrants both visually and physically accessible can help keep you and your neighbors safe.

As always, please don't hesitate to contact my office with any questions or concerns you may have.

Until Next Week,



Senator Johnny Ellis

P.S. PTA Wellness Grant

The [Alaska State PTA](#) is introducing their new Health and Wellness mini-grants program. Grants of up to \$3,500 go to local PTAs and parent groups across Alaska, and are aimed at advancing local efforts to reduce the shocking rates of childhood obesity in our state. To find out more about this opportunity, click [here](#).



