

March 30, 2009



# SENATOR DONALD OLSON 26TH ALASKA LEGISLATURE ULU NEWS - DISTRICT T



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We are working hard as we are nearing the end of session - only 20 days to go. I will keep this short in the interest of getting some information to you quickly on the federal economic stimulus package and to remind you of tomorrow's deadline for filing for your PFD!

Much of our time and efforts have been with the federal economic stimulus package or as it is called, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). Leadership of the Senate and House have partnered with the Denali Commission and the Federal Executive Association to open the "Alaskan Clearinghouse" on March 27. This office is dedicated to helping Alaskan communities and non-profit groups navigate the grant opportunities available through the ARRA. This will provide a needed service to those of you who are asking questions about what is available and who do not want to miss out on grant opportunities. "With all the confusion that exists around the stimulus money, Alaskans need a central location to call where they can learn what is available and how to apply for the funds", said House Finance Co-Chair Mike Hawker. The office will be housed at the Denali Commission Offices at 510 L Street, Suite 410 in Anchorage, and they can be reached at 1-888-480-4321.

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities announced that it will put out to bid an economic stimulus construction project in Kotzebue that will begin this summer. The planned Shore Avenue project will construct erosion protection and roadway improvements from Lake Street to the Crowley Docks. One of the most important results we all expect is increased safety with better lighting, safer sidewalks for pedestrians, and reducing erosion that has been on the minds of Kotzebue's residents for quite some time.

My Senate Bill 111 just passed the House, and with that, changes the timeframe for state DOT Certificates of Compliance for intrastate commercial air carriers. Currently, certificates run from January through December each year, but air carriers initiate or renew their liability insurance policies throughout the year. Once the governor signs this legislation, a period of "any twelve months" will replace the calendar period in statute, thereby matching the renewal period to the policy period. This will save air carriers and the state DOT time, money, and the need for twice-yearly renewals in most cases.

**Don't forget to file for your PFD - the deadline is March 31, 2009!** It is quick and easy to apply on-line at: <http://www.pfd.state.ak.us/index.aspx>. Each year, I hear from people who missed the deadline and are unable to collect their money. **If you miss the deadline, nothing can be done to receive the PFD, so to be certain, double check your status [here](#).**

I enjoyed seeing many faces from home including Danielle Oney, Flora Patrick, Penny Alstom and Katrina Patrick from Alakanuk; Johnny Aiken and Arnold Brower Jr. from Barrow; Stan Atchak, Neva Mathias, Emmanuel Atchak, Eddie Night, Reggie Tuluk, Warren Ulroan, Tammy Smart, Roberta Chayalkun and Maymi Napoleon from Chevak; Willie Augustine, Billy A. Charles and Gunner J.Gregory from Emmonak; Anna Beck, Gene Armstrong, Walter Naneng, Marissa Tomaganuk, Charlene Murrans and Jaylene Hoelscher from Hooper Bay; Leon and Trevor Akaran from Kotlik; Stephanie Thompson from Kotzebue; Tony Parsons of Nome; Kristianne Edwards from Pilot Station; Lee Ryan from Unalakleet and Joanna Wassillie from White Mountain. Thank you for taking the time to see me while you were in town.



Senator Olson with students from Alakanuk, Hooper Bay, Pilot Station, Kotlik, Emmonak and Chevak.

Senator Olson in Senate Finance listens to constituents testimony on operating budget items for the upcoming year.

