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Governor Bill Walker
STATE OF ALASKA

April 29, 2015

President Kevin Meyer
President of the Senate
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 111
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Speaker Mike Chenault
Speaker of the House
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 208
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear President Meyer and Speaker Chenault:

First, I want to thank you and your colleagues for the time and effort you've put into this legislative session thus far. You have accomplished many good things for Alaskans in the last 100 days since the legislative session began. However, your fundamental constitutional duty as appropriators is left undone. Article IX, Section 13 of the Alaska Constitution specifies that no money shall be withdrawn from the treasury except in accordance with appropriations made by law.

As Alaska's duly elected lawmakers and appropriators, it is incumbent upon the Legislature to pass a fully funded budget that avoids a potential government shutdown. It would be a disservice to Alaskans if the Legislature were to leave the capital city without satisfying that obligation. Doing so creates uncertainty in business negotiations for State agencies, hampers the State's ability to attract new investment, and creates significant challenges for our administration in planning for fiscal year 2016.

Alaskans deserve better, and I implore the majority and minority caucuses in both the House of Representatives and the Senate to work cooperatively to reach an agreement that moves Alaska forward.

Therefore, my executive proclamation of April 27th, convening the 29th Legislature into a special session, stands. Members of the Juneau Delegation and Juneau Mayor Merrill Sanford have assured us the city has sufficient accommodations for a special session.

I will not rescind my proclamation, nor will I agree to a change of venue at this time. Now is not the time to allow our political differences to divide us; we need to pull together for the good of Alaska to finish the business at hand.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill Walker".

Bill Walker
Governor