

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



October 25, 2021

Senator Bert Stedman
Co-Chair, Senate Finance Committee
Senator Click Bishop
Co-Chair, Senate Finance Committee
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senators Stedman and Bishop:

We request Senate Bill 4001, entitled "An Act making appropriations for the operating expenses of state government and for certain programs; capitalizing funds; making supplemental appropriations; and providing for an effective date", be heard and acted upon by the Senate Finance Committee in an expeditious manner and returned to the body with sufficient time that it can be acted upon by the Senate as a whole before the end of the Fourth Special Session on November 2, 2021.

As you are likely aware, the bill appropriates funds for a supplemental dividend to be paid to Alaskans as soon as possible. Regardless of any one Senator's position for or against this proposal, we all agree that this is an issue of great importance to all Alaskans, and it deserves to be heard and acted upon.

This bill was introduced by the Senate Rules Committee at the request of Governor Dunleavy on October 4, the first day of the Fourth Special Session. On that day, it was referred to the Senate Finance Committee for action. Since that time, 19 days have passed without any action by the Senate Finance Committee. The end of the Fourth Special Session is in sight, and action must be taken.

Because this bill currently sits in the Senate Finance Committee, only you, the Co-Chairs of the Senate Finance Committee, have the ability to take action on this important piece of legislation at present. We request that you do so. While the power to act on this bill currently rests with you alone, the consequences of your continued inaction will be borne by all members of your caucus—and by all Alaskans. Continued inaction opens our caucus to being viewed as a "do nothing" caucus. We would very much like to avert that outcome—but that will require overcoming the current legislative inertia and taking action.

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We regret the necessity of taking this extraordinary step of making this formal request—but to date, our repeated informal requests to this end have borne no fruit. We urge prompt action.

Sincerely,



Senator Shelley Hughes
Senate Majority Leader



Senator Mia Costello
Senate Majority Whip



Senator Roger Holland



Senator Robert Myers



Senator Lora Reinbold



Senator Mike Shower

cc: Governor Mike Dunleavy
Senator Gary Stevens