

**From:** pl hamlett [plhamlett@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 01, 2011 5:10 AM  
**To:** info@communitycouncils.org  
**Subject:** FW: From the Desk of Senator Johnny Ellis: Bills on the Move

Mark ---

pls fwd to CPCC members

Thanks  
PETER HAMLETT  
CPCC Chair

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From: Senator\_Johnny\_Ellis@legis.state.ak.us  
To: Senator\_Johnny\_Ellis@legis.state.ak.us  
Date: Mon, 28 Feb 2011 14:39:52 -0900  
Subject: From the Desk of Senator Johnny Ellis: Bills on the Move

## From the Desk of SENATOR JOHNNY ELLIS



*Representing the neighborhoods of Airport Heights, Anchor Park, Campbell Park, College Village, Downtown, Fairview, Geneva Woods, Government Hill, Green Acres, Midtown, North Star, Rogers Park, South Addition, Tudor, Valley of the Moon, Waldron, and Woodside East*

**February 28, 2011**



**SENATOR  
JOHNNY ELLIS**

### **BILLS ON THE MOVE**

***Film Tax Extension, Public Transit, School Meals  
and More!***

Friends and Neighbors,

We are almost halfway through the 90-day legislative session, and my staff and I are hard at work. Here is an update on some interesting legislation moving through the Legislature this session:

*Working hard  
Solving problems  
Getting things done*

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Follow me on:



## Film Tax Credit Extension

I introduced [Senate Bill 23](#) this year to extend the Film Production Tax Incentive Program I fought hard to get passed in 2008. This bill would extend the successful credits for ten years, so the private sector can have confidence in the incentives and invest in a sound stage and workforce training programs. This past weekend, I met with four producers who are interested in producing a new big budget movie in Alaska because of Alaska's film incentives ([see ADN article here](#)), and they are very interested in supporting the local Alaskan economy. This bill passed out of the Senate Labor and Commerce committee last week and is now headed to Senate Finance.



*Senator Johnny Ellis (D – Anchorage) testifying in support of Senate Bill 23, an extension of the Film Production Tax Credits with staffer Matt Moser.*

## Public Transit Funding



[Senate Bill 77](#) would provide \$3 million in state matching funding for public transit projects. Letters of support from municipalities around the state show what a huge impact this bill would make on local public transit. The bill passed out of the Senate Transportation Committee last week and is now headed to Senate Finance.

### **Funding for School Meals**

I am a co-sponsor of [Senate Bill 3](#), led by [Senator Bill Wielechowski](#) (D-Anchorage). This bill would appropriate state funds to match an existing Federal program to help provide free and reduced school breakfasts and lunches to underprivileged children. This bill will help encourage school districts around the state to offer meals to students to ensure that they can concentrate on learning rather than their next meal. This bill passed out of the Senate today unanimously and is now headed to the House.

### **Alaska Performance Scholarship**

[Senate Bill 43](#) is the Governor's proposed Alaska Performance Scholarship bill, which would increase funding for both performance and merit based scholarships to students entering college. I believe the Senate Education Committee has made good amendments to the bill, including establishing a sustainable funding mechanism. This bill passed out of the Senate Education Committee and is now headed to Senate Finance.

## **24<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL KEY CAMPAIGN**

I had the privilege of being the Keynote Speaker at this year's 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Key Campaign Unity Dinner last week. This has consistently been one of the most moving events during the legislative session, and I am always struck by the determination of the folks who come to Juneau to meet with legislators.



*Senator Ellis giving the Keynote Address to the Key Campaign Unity Dinner.*

Through unified, statewide advocacy, [the Key Coalition](#) promotes the dignity, status, and equality of all Alaskans who experience disabilities as valued, contributing participants in a shared community. I [spoke on the Senate floor](#) (starts at 26:30) about the origins of the Key Campaign. I also had a chance to meet with constituents while they were in town.



*Senator Ellis with Key Campaign constituents.*

**STATEHOOD!**

This past Thursday, my colleagues and I were able to attend a special legislative preview of the new film ***Statehood!***, a history of the dedicated men and women who fought for Alaska's independence.



*Senator Ellis introducing the filmmaker for the **Statehood!** legislative preview, Larry Goldin (a fellow constituent).*

This award winning film was well received, and I encourage you to watch this exciting documentary when it is broadcast in Anchorage on the following days:

Tuesday, March 1<sup>st</sup>, on Channel 15 at 8pm

Sunday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, on Channel 15 at 7pm

Monday, March 7, on Channel 7 at 8pm

Until next week,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "J. Ellis". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Senator Johnny Ellis

P.S. Do you know a college student looking for a summer internship? Each year, the Alaska Permanent Fund Corporation (APFC) and several external investment managers hire Alaska college students as summer interns. Recruitment for summer 2011 internships is now underway. This year we have [16 different internships listed on our website](#). All program

information can be found on the APFC website:  
[www.apfc.org](http://www.apfc.org).

<http://ellis.aksenate.org>