

**From:** pl hamlett [plhamlett@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 04, 2012 5:11 PM  
**To:** info@communitycouncils.org  
**Subject:** FW: From the Desk of Senator Johnny Ellis: State Affairs Hearing

Mark,

sorry, pls send to CPCC members

Thanks  
PETER HAMLETT

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From: Senator\_Johnny\_Ellis@legis.state.ak.us  
To: Senator\_Johnny\_Ellis@legis.state.ak.us  
Subject: From the Desk of Senator Johnny Ellis: State Affairs Hearing  
Date: Thu, 4 Oct 2012 22:01:39 +0000

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**SENATOR  
JOHNNY ELLIS**  
Working hard  
Solving problems  
Getting things done  
716 W 4th Ave., Suite 500

PHOTOS | **BILLS** | PRESS RELEASES |   

October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2012

## STATE AFFAIRS HEARING: EMERGENCY RESPONSE

*Accountability, Responsibility and Improvements*

Friends and Neighbors,

Last week the Senate State Affairs Committee chaired by [Senator Bill Wielechowski](#) met to address the concerns aired by many Anchorage residents following September's wind storms.

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Tens of thousands of Alaskans from the Mat-Su to Girdwood were affected by power outages due to hundreds of downed trees and damaged transmission lines. Representatives from [Chugach Electric](#), [MEA](#), [ML&P](#), and [ACS](#) testified and answered tough questions from committee members about the customer outreach, availability of information and response tactics in the event of future emergency situations.



*Rep. Tuck, Sen. Giessel, Sen. Ellis and Sen. Wielechowski hear testimony from Anchorage utilities following September's wind storms.*

In response to dissatisfaction from many of their customers, local utilities are implementing new equipment and procedures including smart meter systems, remote shutoff capabilities, upgraded vehicle fleets with full communication systems, increased social media presence and backup customer service response centers.

I, like many Anchorage residents, found the initial response to the massive power outages unacceptable. I was encouraged to hear of the steps each individual utility is taking to mitigate future outages and ensure the public's safety.

#### More Affordable Primary Care Coming To Anchorage

The much anticipated [Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center will open next Saturday, October 17<sup>th</sup>](#) and will be [able to serve hundreds of new patients](#). I'll be there to celebrate this historic achievement for health care in Anchorage.

This landmark building is a federally qualified community health center and will provide primary care to thousands of Alaska residents, regardless of their insurance status or ability to pay. There is even [shuttle service from the Downtown Transit Center for just \\$1](#). If you are looking for a primary care doctor, click [HERE](#) for information for new patients.



Check out this photo-essay by AHNC Development Director John Zasada on the new Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center.

### Zombie Preparedness

October is [Zombie Preparedness Month](#). Together, the Municipality of Anchorage and the [Center for Disease Control](#) will be [hosting events](#) designed to increase awareness and preparation for emergency situations. Registration and more information can be [found here](#).



Until Next Week,

Senator Johnny Ellis

**P.S.** Don't forget to register to vote by Monday, October 7<sup>th</sup>.  
[More information is available on how to register here.](#)