



**Dear Friends and Neighbors,**

The days of summer are dwindling down, and while Anchorage had significantly more rain than sun, I have been thinking a lot about the wildfires that are increasing in frequency and intensity – here in our state, and abroad.

From Fairbanks to Maui, Canada to Turkey, it's become almost routine to open the paper and see news of a devastating wildfire and the destruction and displacement left in its wake.

As the global temperature continues to rise, Alaskan summers are sure to be hotter and drier. This is and should be a concern for all of us. While we sometimes cannot control what starts a wildfire, **we can do our part to help mitigate the risk and intensity of wildfires.**

Anchorage residents can look at a new **online wildfire hazard map** that was designed to highlight wildfire potential in our communities, based on the ability of vegetation to carry a fire and throw embers. You can zoom in on your neighborhood or community council area to assess the level of risk. **This important tool can help communities and landowners to be vigilant and proactive and could even save lives.**

Learn about how you can prepare your home in the event of a wildfire **[here>>](#)**

---

## Tour of the Port of Anchorage

Last week, I joined other legislators to visit the Port of Anchorage to learn about the major investments being made there. I was reminded of how critical this port is to all Alaskans. **The Port of Anchorage handles 90% of our food and 50% of our freight**, with about half of both food and freight continuing onto other ports in the state.

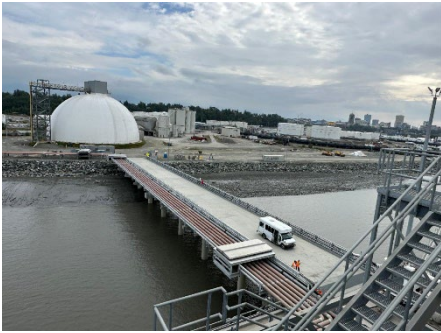
Moreover, the port's proximity to the railroad and airport is vital for delivering fuel and goods to other communities and fuel to the Anchorage airport, which is crucial in supporting international air cargo operations. **I also learned that adding an additional mile of rail to the port may reduce our shipping costs of up to \$100 per box!** Those savings indirectly benefit Alaskans and Alaskan businesses.



The port is key to commerce, natural resource development, food security, and national security. **Modernizing our port is a major and necessary, long overdue investment.** Port fees pay for port operations to companies that use the port, but infrastructure will require federal, state, and local investment.

It was also exciting to learn that **Launch Alaska**, a non-profit organization with a mission to modernize and efficiently decarbonize the globe, is involved in the modernization project. Along with a solar farm, Launch Alaska proposes installing **a connected microgrid at the port, which would use renewable energy sources to power the port's operations.** This would help to reduce the port's expensive spikes in electricity use on fossil fuels and make it more sustainable.

For many reasons, the modernization of the Port of Alaska is a critical investment for Alaska's future. **The port is essential to our economy, national security, and environment.** The Port of Anchorage was built in 1961, and now it is time to rebuild with the next 60 years in mind. I am committed to working with my colleagues to secure the funding necessary to make this project a reality.



Pictured is the cement storage tank at the port. We import

cement because, in part, it is not economically feasible to make our own.

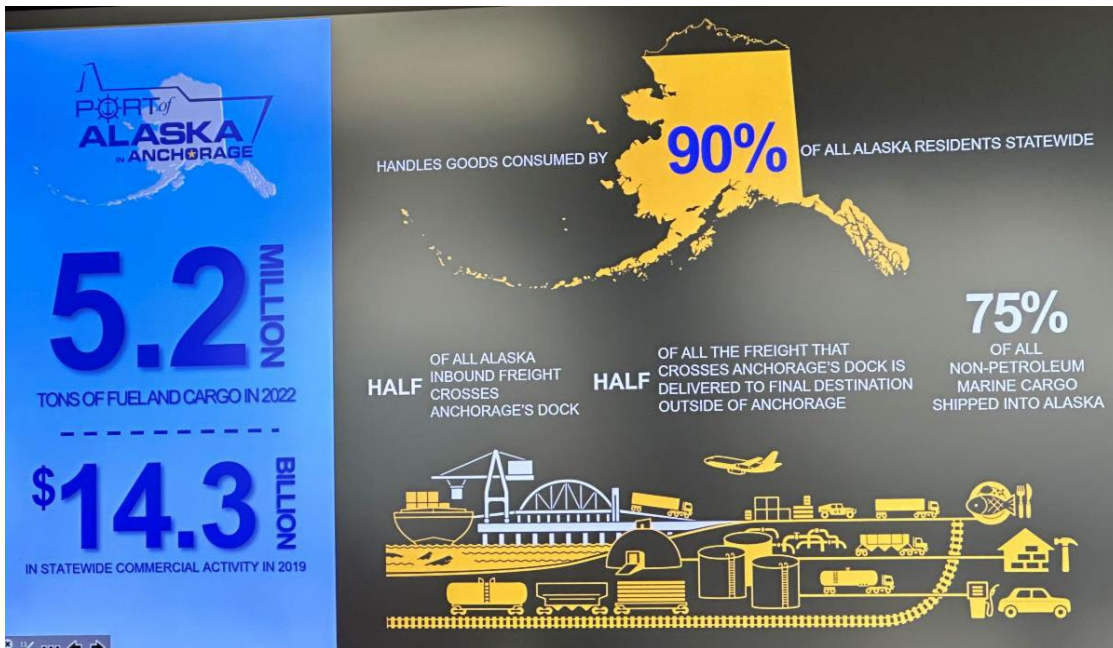


Jim Jager, Director of Continuity & External Affairs at the port gives a very thorough tour of the port.

Also pictured is Launch Alaska Managing Director Penny Gage and Rep. Zack Fields.



Tidal challenges and silty ground present design challenges. A million cubic yards of silt need to be dredged per year from this area.



## Showing Up For Trans Youth

The Alaska State Board of Education and Early Development has scheduled a special meeting to consider approving **a regulatory ban on allowing trans girls from playing sports on girls' teams**. A public hearing was held in July, where hours of public testimony reflected resounding opposition to this unnecessary policy related to trans children. Data shows that while this is a very small segment of our student population, because of bullying behavior and 'othering' by our community, these students are vulnerable and make up a disproportionately high percentage of suicides and suicide attempts. I am also concerned that this ban singles out trans girls in sports, **likely violating the privacy clause and the equal protection in the Alaska Constitution**.

**We have a lot of work to do in Public Education. I am hearing deep frustration from constituents because the Board is choosing to put extensive time and attention into this potentially very harmful policy.**

The meeting will occur on **Thursday, August 31st, at 1:00 p.m.** and is open to the public, but **the board will not be taking public comment**. Unfortunately, this is in the middle of the working day for most, but I am hopeful that those who are able can tune in and show that they are watching.

If you would like to voice your opinion on the matter, you may reach the Alaska School Board via Executive Secretary at [janell.andrews@alaska.gov](mailto:janell.andrews@alaska.gov), and you're welcome to copy me at [Rep.Alyse.Galvin@gmail.com](mailto:Rep.Alyse.Galvin@gmail.com).

The public is invited to attend this meeting by joining online through the digital platform Zoom or by joining via phone.

**Join Zoom Meeting:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/99391482721>

**Meeting ID:** 993 9148 2721

**Join by Phone:** 1-253-215-8782

You can access the board's meeting packet [here>>](#)

---

## Midweek Midtown Meetup - You're always welcome!

How can I better serve you? Do you have ideas on how to make Midtown a more marvelous place to work, live, and play? I am here to listen! Please join us for our weekly Midtown Midweek Meetup this **Wednesday, August 30th, from noon to 1 p.m. in my office at the Anchorage LIO - 1500 W. Benson Blvd, Room 325**. Refreshments will be provided!

---



## Please Save the Date

### Midtown Townhall

Senator Elvi Gray-Jackson, Representative Andy Josephson, and I are hosting a town hall to hear from you!

**Save the date and join us at the Wilda Marston Theater in the Loussac Library on September 16th.**

More info to come soon! If you would like to volunteer at the event, please let us know!

Serving you,



This week, we helped and listened to constituents about:

- SNAP recertification applications
- The PFD appeal process
- Court System Navigation
- Housing Services

## We Look Forward to Hearing From and Serving You

### Representative Alyse Galvin

#### Anchorage LIO

1500 W Benson Blvd.  
Room 325  
Anchorage, AK 99503

Office: 907-269-0190

[Representative.Alyse.Galvin@akleg.gov](mailto:Representative.Alyse.Galvin@akleg.gov)

### Senator Elvi Gray-Jackson

#### Anchorage LIO

1500 W Benson Blvd.  
Room 328  
Anchorage, AK 99503

Office: 907-269-0174

[Senator.Elvi.Gray-Jackson@akleg.gov](mailto:Senator.Elvi.Gray-Jackson@akleg.gov)

**Congresswoman**

**Mary Peltola**

Anchorage Office:

**Senator**

**Lisa Murkowski**

Fairbanks Office:

250 Cushman Ave, Suite 2D

**Senator**

**Dan Sullivan**

Fairbanks Office:

101 12th Ave., Ste. 328

121 W Fireweed Ln, Ste. 260  
Anchorage, AK 99503

Phone: 907-921-6575

[Peltola.House.Gov](http://Peltola.House.Gov)

Fairbanks, AK 99701

Phone: (907) 456-0233

Fax: (877) 857-0322

[Murkowski.Senate.Gov](http://Murkowski.Senate.Gov)

Fairbanks, AK 99701

Phone: (907) 456-0261

Fax: (907) 451-7290

[Sullivan.Senate.Gov](http://Sullivan.Senate.Gov)

