



Legislative & District Updates

Representative Julie Coulombe - District 11 - Lower Hillside

January 30, 2025

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

The first session of the 34th Alaska State Legislature gaveled in on January 21st, and we are already busy with committees, floor sessions, and visitors to the Capitol. I will be serving for the next two years on the [House Resources](#) and [Labor and Commerce](#) committees, as well as the [House Finance Budget Subcommittees](#) for the Departments of [Natural Resources](#) and [Labor and Workforce Development](#). I am excited to put my state budget knowledge to work on departments that I didn't have a chance to delve into quite as extensively in my first term. I will continue to monitor my previous subcommittee department budgets - the Departments of [Education and Early Development](#), [Public Safety](#), and [Administration](#) - and will be attending or tuning into the finance committees as often as my schedule allows.

My **District 11 Road Quality Survey** is live! Please take a couple of minutes and scan the QR code below to complete it. I will be working with the appropriate level of government, depending on ownership and maintenance of particular roads, to improve transportation, including winter maintenance, in our community. The survey will be open until the end of February.

If you have comments or questions, you can always call me at (907) 269-0222, or email me at rep.julie.coulombe@akleg.gov. You can also follow me on [Facebook](#) or [X](#) - I look forward to hearing from you!

Best,

Representative Julie Coulombe
[House District 11](#)

Session:

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120 4th Street
Juneau, AK 99801
(907) 269-0222

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akhousemajority.com

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Contact the Governor:

(907) 269-7450

gov.alaska.gov

Visit the state website:

www.alaska.gov

Track Legislation:

www.AKLeg.gov

Committee Membership

Member: (H) Resources

Member: (H) Labor & Commerce

Member: (HFIN Sub)

Natural Resources

Member: (HFIN Sub) Labor & Workforce Development

Boards and Commissions

[Governor's Task Force on Child Care](#)

[State Council for Interstate Adult and Juvenile Offenders Supervision](#)

[Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education](#)

[Behavioral Health](#)



My husband Marc attended the signing in ceremony at the Capitol for the 34th Alaska Legislature on Tuesday, January 21st.



Constituent Jessica Parker and our friend Shannon Wileman visited me at my new Capitol office in Juneau this week. Jessica is the Superintendent of the Mountain City Christian Academy in Anchorage. They were in town for [National School Choice Week](#).

RoadMap Steering
Committee

Community Councils &
HALO

Abbott Loop CC
President: Lizzie Newell
lizzienewellscifi@gmail.com

Hillside CC
hillsidecommunitycouncil@gmail.com

Huffman/O'Malley
President: Rachel Ries
HOCCpresident@gmail.com

HALO
President: Katie Nolan
presidentHALO@gmail.com



Senator Kaufman and I held a pre-session town hall meeting in early January. Thank you to all the folks who attended to let us know your thoughts and input on issues facing us in Anchorage and the state as a whole. We look forward to working with all of our District 11 constituents to make our community and state a better place to live!

**Department of Natural Resources
House Finance Budget Subcommittee**



The budget subcommittee for the Department of Natural Resource met this week to begin overviews on the [FY26 budget](#). I look forward to working with my colleagues and the executive branch to pass a responsible budget that meets the needs of Alaskans. The department's mission is to develop, conserve and maximize the use of Alaska's natural resources consistent with the public interest. The department includes the important divisions of [Oil & Gas](#), [Mining, Land & Water](#), [Forestry and Fire Protection](#), [Geological and Geophysical Surveys](#), [Agriculture](#), and [Parks & Outdoor Recreation](#).



House Labor & Commerce Committee



HB 57 - Banning Cell Phones in the Classroom

The House Labor & Commerce committee heard [HB 57](#) this week. This legislation directs the Department of Education and Early Development to develop a model policy relating to cell phone use in schools during school hours, that include lunch and passing periods. The restriction applies to personal wireless devices with a possible exception for emergency use. During the October 8-9, 2024, [State Board of Education](#) Meeting, the board passed a [resolution](#) regarding cell phone use in schools during the school day. The department created a draft policy, which was presented to the board, which can be viewed [HERE](#).



Public testimony will be taken on HB 57 Wednesday, February 5th at 3:15pm. You can also submit your written testimony to the Co-Chairs' offices directly at: House.Labor.And.Commerce@akleg.gov

Public Testimony Opportunities



Check the [Bill Action & Status Inquiry System](#) (BASIS) each Monday to find out the [public testimony opportunities](#) for the week. You can call into the numbers listed above and testify, or you can submit your testimony in writing to each of the [committee](#) Chair's offices. You can also submit a [Public Opinion Message](#) (POM) directly to me online, and if you'd like your input to be included in public testimony on a particular piece of legislation, please let me know when sending communication and I will ensure it becomes part of the official record.

Education Funding Legislation



Members of the House Majority Coalition have proposed an increase to the Base Student Allocation (BSA), and the House Education Committee is underway with hearings. [HB 69](#), introduced by Rep. Himschoot of Sitka, proposes a permanent increase to the BSA over the next three years, and then into perpetuity. If passed in its current form, the budget would increase as follows:

Cost Increase for HB 69:

- FY26: \$326.3 million
- FY27: \$501.3 million
- FY28: \$645.7 million

This is a total cost over three years: \$1.47 billion on top of the current BSA. If passed, this would increase the [Department of Education & Early Development's](#) (DEED) FY26 budget to \$1.58 billion — the Governor's proposed FY26 is \$1.25 billion.

The provisions of the bill provide for:

- On July 1, 2025, Increasing the base student allocation of June 30, 2025, by the average inflation adjustment of CY21-CY23, and then add \$1000.
- On July 1, 2026, Increasing the base student allocation of June 30, 2026, by the average inflation adjustment of CY22-CY24, and then add \$404.
- On July 1, 2027, Increasing the base student allocation of June 30, 2027 by the average inflation adjustment of CY23-CY25, and then add \$404.
- On July 1, 2028, and on July 1 of each year, Increasing the base student allocation in effect June 30 of the previous fiscal year the average percent of increase of the first three of the preceding four calendar years using the Alaska CPI.

I support and will advocate for our public education system in Alaska. I believe the solution to improving student outcomes and making our state a great place for teachers to live and provide for their families, not only includes funding, but strong accountability at the local school district level. The state can appropriate funds, but how those funds are spent is locally controlled and is vital to achieving the high

standards we should all expect of our schools.

Public Testimony Opportunity:

If you would like to testify on education funding, you can call in to the Senate Education Committee hearing on Friday, January 31st at 3:30 p.m. using the phone numbers listed above. In addition, you are welcome to [submit your testimony in writing](#) any time to the [House Education Committee](#) - your written testimony will become part of the official record.



FREE TAX PREP

Alaska 211 connects Alaskans with free tax prep services and financial literacy resources.

Keep more of what you earn.

Don't pay expensive tax preparation or rapid refund fees. IRS certified tax volunteers can prepare and e-file your taxes at no cost to you.

If you worked in 2024, you may qualify for a larger refund.

Don't miss out on various tax credits you may be eligible for including the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). Larger refunds mean real dollars for real bills or savings.

To learn more or schedule an appointment,

Call 2-1-1 or 1-800-478-2221



Anchorage Board of REALTORS® Annual Luncheon



Thank you to the Anchorage Board of Realtors for inviting me to speak at your Annual Market Forecast luncheon today! It was a pleasure to talk about the legislation I championed over the past two years to make homeownership easier for Alaskans.

I look forward to continuing to work on housing issues during the upcoming legislative session. We must prioritize affordable housing, eliminating homelessness, and improving our economy so

Newly elected and returning Representatives and Senators presented their respective caucus's legislative priorities and issues facing Alaska at a breakfast forum hosted by the [Resource Development Council](#). Energy, education, the economy, achieving a balanced budget, the permanent fund dividend, and retirement and benefits for public employees were all highlighted.



Alaska LNG Project

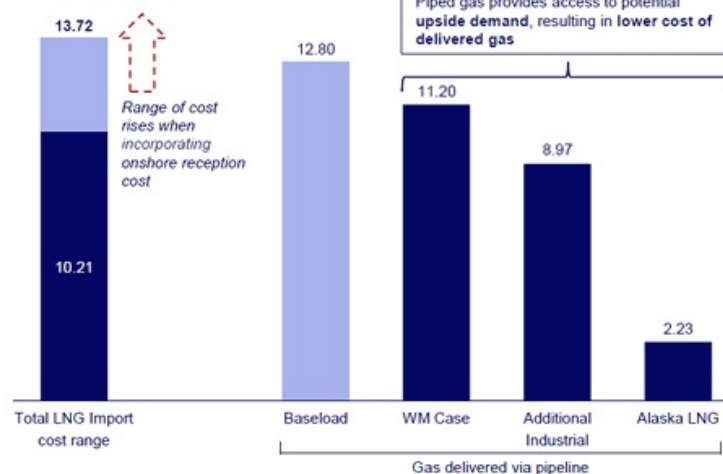
Wood Mackenzie Analysis

ALASKA GASLINE DEVELOPMENT CORP.

The Wood Mackenzie Analysis shows that the Phase 1 pipeline can deliver gas at or below the cost of imported LNG with just domestic demand. As new Anchor Customers develop, Alaskans will benefit from lower cost energy.

LNG Import cost comparison vs Gas delivered via pipeline

US\$/mmbtu, real 2024



During the 2024 session, the Legislature passed the following intent language:

"It is the intent of the legislature that the Alaska Gasline Development Corporation continue to work towards meeting the critical energy needs of Alaskans by advancing a pipeline project proposal which would deliver North Slope natural gas to Alaska's utilities, businesses, and homeowners. Further, it is the intent of the legislature that the Alaska Gasline Development Corporation complete an independent third-party review of a project proposal that would commercialize North Slope gas and present that analysis to the legislature by December 20, 2024. It is the further intent of the legislature that if analysis shows a positive economic value to the state, all parties would work toward Front End Engineering and Design for Phase 1 of a pipeline project."

The consulting firm [Wood Mackenzie](#) was contracted to complete an independent third-party economic assessment of the [Alaska LNG Project](#) Phase 1 Pipeline. The analysis shows a positive economic value to the state.

The [Alaska Gasline Development Corporation](#) presented to the House Finance Committee this week on the progress of the AKLNG project. You can watch it and find the full presentation [HERE](#).



FY26 Federal Budget Requests

The federal FY26 Appropriations and Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) portals are now live on Senator Murkowski's website:

<https://www.murkowski.senate.gov/appropriations-and-cds-request-page>

The portal is an online platform provided by the U.S. Congress and designed to facilitate the submission, review, and tracking of requests related to appropriations and congressionally directed spending items. Funding allocations requests can be made for specific projects, organizations, or initiatives and they can be submitted by constituents, local governments, non-profits, and other stakeholders.

Senator Murkowski will once again consider CDS project proposals from eligible recipients.



My road survey is intended to help me assess where I can direct my attention and advocacy for improved road conditions. I can be your voice for resources at the state level, and work with the community councils and/or the municipality for improvements to locally maintained roads.



SCAN ME!

The survey will run until the **end of February**. If the QR code doesn't work for you, you can click on it to be taken directly to the web site.

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I am always interested in talking with and hearing from constituents. You can email or call me any time at Rep.Coulombe@akleg.gov or (907) 465-3879.



**WHEN YOU NEED
HELP FINDING HELP,
Alaska 211 is here
for you.**

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- Health insurance
- Mental health services
- Public benefits
- Senior care
- Job training
- Health care
- Parenting help
- Legal assistance
- Veteran services

CALL 2-1-1 or 1-800-478-2221

Visit Alaska211.org Email Alaska211@ak.org

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