

From: pl hamlett [plhamlett@hotmail.com]
Sent: Friday, March 02, 2012 2:00 PM
To: info@communitycouncils.org
Subject: FW: From the Desk of Johnny Ellis: Day 46: Keyed Up and Ready to Go
Attachments: image020.jpg

Mark

pls fwd to CPCC members

Thanks
PETER HAMLETT
CPCC Chair

From: Senator_Johnny_Ellis@legis.state.ak.us
Subject: From the Desk of Johnny Ellis: Day 46: Keyed Up and Ready to Go
Date: Fri, 2 Mar 2012 18:42:36 +0000

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**SENATOR
JOHNNY ELLIS**
Working hard
Solving problems
Getting things

March 2nd, 2012

DAY 46: KEYED UP AND READY TO GO

Key Coalition 25th anniversary, UA Boosters Caucus, QR codes, aksenate.org, oil tax reform update

Friends and Neighbors,

This past week I had the amazing opportunity to participate in the 25th anniversary of the [Key Coalition](#), a group which advocates for the rights, dignity and dreams of individuals who experience disabilities.

The coalition joins together every year in Juneau to talk to legislators about issues facing the disabled community and steps they

done

Alaska Capitol, Rm 119
Juneau, AK 99801
(907) 465-3704
fax (907) 465-2529
Sen.Johnny.Ellis@legis.state.ak.us

<http://ellis.aksenate.org>

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Contact Other
Elected Officials:

Senator Mark Begich,
Anchorage Office:
907-271-5915

EMAIL:

[Sen. Mark Begich](mailto:Sen.Mark.Begich@legis.state.ak.us)

Congressman Don Young,
Anchorage Office:
907-271-5978

EMAIL:

[Rep. Don Young](mailto:Rep.Don.Young@house.gov)

Senator Lisa Murkowski,
Anchorage Office:
907-271-3735,

EMAIL:

[Sen. Lisa Murkowski](mailto:Sen.Lisa.Murkowski@legis.state.ak.us)

Office of the Governor

Anchorage Office:

269-7450

EMAIL:

[Office of the Governor](mailto:Office.of.the.Governor@alaska.gov)

can take towards finding solutions. The Key [campaign priorities](#) this year are supporting Alaska's complex behavior collaborative (CBC), wait-list reductions, infant learning programs, and Autism insurance reform.



Senator Ellis gets the Key Coalition campaigners "keyed up and ready to go" at the Key Campaign rally on the steps of the Capitol. The rally encouraged legislators to support [autism insurance reform](#).



Senator Ellis speaks at the Key Coalition's 25th anniversary dinner at Centennial Hall in Juneau. As a founding member of the Key Coalition, he is proud and encouraged by the work the group has done and will continue to do.

QR Code

Contact information for Senator Ellis is now available through his QR code. For those with smartphones, by downloading the "Scan" app and putting this code under your smartphone's camera, you can have the Capitol at your fingertips!



Senate Bipartistan Working Group's New Website

For those interested in following the events of the Legislature, the Senate has a newly launched [website](#) that makes it easy to follow press releases and [social media](#), look at [photos](#) and video, and see what the Senate's working on each day.

Here are a couple of things that are highlighted on the Senate Bipartisan Working Group's [website](#) this week:

- [Senate Bipartisan Working Group principles on oil development](#)
- [Buy American Act Introduced in Alaska Senate](#)

Filmmaking Tax Incentives Video

Click on the video below to learn what members of Alaska's business community have to say about the importance of Alaska's [Film and Television Production Incentives program](#). Let's pass [SB 23](#), and keep a good thing going!



Update on Senate's Work on Oil Taxes

This week, the [Senate Resources Committee](#) heard many hours of testimony on its oil tax reform bill, [SB 192](#), from oil and gas consultants, representatives of the Administration, and the oil companies themselves. That Committee also heard more than four hours of public testimony. The Committee made a decision to craft the bill in public—offering and discussing a variety of approaches drafted as amendments to current policy. This was a totally transparent process, and it will become the basis for a holistic approach for incentivizing increased oil production. In just a few days, the bill will move from the Resources Committee to the [Finance Committee](#). This Committee already heard extensive advice from [Pedro Van Meurs](#), an international expert on oil and gas fiscal policy. In general, Van Meurs said the [Administration's oil tax bill is not the right path](#), but that changes to the current tax structure are needed. In the Finance Committee, we will continue to take testimony from experts and the Administration. Oil companies will also get a chance to weigh in and so will the public. The job of the Finance Committee is to fine tune the details, carefully adjusting the levers that determine how the State and Industry share the profits from our oil resource.

The [Senate Bipartisan Working Group](#) has put forward a set of [principles on oil and gas development](#). In a nutshell, we want more oil, more jobs, and sustainable revenues. Crafting a bill that achieves each of these things requires careful analysis and deliberation. I remain very confident that the Senate will pass a meaningful oil tax bill that will result in new oil production.



Members of the UA Boosters Caucus, which Senator Ellis Co-Chairs, heard from the

three Chancellors and their joint efforts focusing on local education for local hire in Alaska's industries. Dr. Herb Schroeder of ANSEP presented on the success of his program in training Alaskan engineers for jobs in Alaska.

University of Alaska Boosters Caucus Welcomes Chancellors

This week the University Boosters Caucus met for a special legislative briefing from the University Chancellors, as well as to celebrate the accomplishments of the [Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program](#) (ANSEP). Chancellor [Tom Case](#) of UAA, [Brian Rogers](#) of UAF and [John Pugh](#) of UAS presented on the University system's unified statewide effort for job training and [workforce development](#), especially in high demand fields like engineering, mining and nursing.

Dr. Herb Schroeder, the [founder and Executive Director of ANSEP](#), presented on the achievements of this remarkable program. By encouraging Alaskans as young as twelve years old to develop strong math and science skills, ANSEP has increased university recruitment and retention rates, and is currently inspiring approximately 700 Alaskans to pursue careers in [science, technology, engineering, and mathematics](#) (STEM). We were very proud to celebrate the anniversary of this program. You can watch the entire presentation by clicking [here](#).

As always, please don't hesitate to contact my office with any questions or concerns you may have.

Until Next Week,



Senator Johnny Ellis

P.S. Alaska State Fair Scholarship!

Looking for cash for college? Alaska junior and senior high school students who intend on attending college or vocational school are eligible to apply for the Alaska State Fair's 2012 scholarship! [Click here](#) to find out more.



P.P.S. Art in Your Capitol

"The Stampede," (1937), by Eustace Paul Ziegler (1881-1969).

