

Senator Hollis French

Alaska State Legislature

State Capitol, Room 417
Juneau, Alaska 99801
Phone: (907) 465-3892
Fax: (907) 465-6595



716 West 4th Avenue, Suite 420
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
Phone: (907) 269-0234
Fax: (907) 269-0238

SB 174 Oil and Gas Industry Job Notifications

Sponsor Statement

According to the recent McDowell Group study, oil and gas industry employment has more than doubled in the past ten years, adding 5,000 new jobs since 2000. However, nonresidents accounted for 44 per cent of new hires in 2010, and in the 3rd quarter of 2010, out of state applicants claimed 56 percent of all North Slope hires. As a former North Slope worker, I am concerned that the state needs to be more proactive in ensuring that Alaskans have a shot at these jobs.

Senate Bill 174 seeks to improve access to oil and gas jobs for Alaskans by requiring that larger companies provide job recruiting announcements to the Alaska Department of Labor. The Department will then make this information publicly available in a way that is easily accessible to Alaska job seekers. The bill exempts employers who are participating in recruitment under other statutorily required programs or when public notice of the job is reasonably likely to cause financial harm to the employer.

I believe that most companies will welcome the opportunity to recruit qualified Alaskans for jobs in the industry, and I urge your support of this important step to ensure that more Alaskans know of these job opportunities.