

Alaska State Legislature

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Committee Members:
Senator Dennis Egan, Chair
Senator Joe Paskvan, V. Chair
Senator Bettye Davis
Senator Linda Menard
Senator Cathy Giessel

Senate Labor and Commerce Committee

August 26, 2011

Via email

Dear _____:

As you may know, the Governor has introduced a bill to revise Alaska's oil tax structure. In preparation for further consideration of this important legislation, the Senate Labor & Commerce Committee will hold hearings to gather information concerning the hiring of Alaskans to work in the industry, most especially, in the North Slope oil fields. Because of your involvement in and knowledge of the industry, I am especially interested in hearing from you or a representative of your company. I invite you to speak to the committee at one of our two scheduled hearings. Details are below.

Should you accept this invitation, please be prepared to address the following questions about your Alaska operations. To accommodate multiple witnesses and to allow time for questions from committee members, please limit your prepared remarks to five minutes.

- **Does your company have a policy concerning the hiring of Alaskan workers?** If so, please describe the policy and how you implement it. How do you define an Alaskan for purposes of the policy?
- **What percentage of your workforce are currently Alaska residents?** How do you track this number? Do you have a target figure? Have these numbers varied over your company's history with the industry in Alaska?
- **Recent data from the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development show that just over half of all new hires in the industry are from out of state.** What efforts do you make to find Alaskans to fill job openings in your company? How successful have these been? If they have not been as successful as you believe they could be, what specific policy changes would you recommend the state consider that would make it easier for you to hire more Alaskans?
- **Do you apply Alaska hire standards when you contract for services with other companies?** What influence do you exercise—or might you be able to exercise—over those companies regarding hiring Alaskans?

Hearings will be in Fairbanks and Anchorage. The Fairbanks hearing for invited testimony will be Tuesday, September 6, 1:30 – 3:30 PM in the Borough Assembly Chambers. The Anchorage hearing will be Thursday, September 8, also 1:30 – 3:30 PM at the Legislative Information Office, 716 4th St. At both locations, we will also hear from the general public in the evening.

Please reply and direct any questions to Dana Owen, committee staff at 907-465-3881 or by email: dana_owen@legis.state.ak.us.

I look forward to engaging you in this important discussion.

Sincerely,

Dennis Egan, Chair