



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

Department of Administration

SHELDON FISHER, COMMISSIONER

10th Fl. State Office Building
PO Box 110200
Juneau, AK 99811-0200
Main: 907.465.2200
Fax: 907.465.2135
www.doa.alaska.gov

May 4, 2017

Representative Bryce Edgmon, Speaker
Alaska House of Representatives
Capitol Room 208
Juneau, AK 99801

Senator Pete Kelly, President
Alaska Senate
Capitol Room 111
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Speaker Edgmon and President Kelly,

This week I met with two representatives from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) about the *Real ID Act*. They traveled to Alaska to brief legislators about the ramifications of not complying with the *Real ID Act* and to make it clear what the deadlines are for Alaska to comply.

As you know, we currently have an extension from DHS until June 6, 2017. To get a further extension, the Legislature must pass a bill allowing the Alaska Division of Motor Vehicles to spend state money to take the steps to comply. The bills Governor Walker introduced in January to allow this, HB 74 and SB 34, are sitting in both Finance Committees waiting for hearings.

When I spoke with the DHS representatives, they reiterated the need to not only pass a bill this session allowing Alaska to comply with the *Act*, but that once a bill is passed, Alaska must submit an official extension request to DHS. They informed me we need to send DHS our compliance package at least ten working days before the June 6, 2017, deadline to allow Secretary Kelly time to review our proposal and grant a further extension. To meet these deadlines, we must pass a bill by May 17, 2017, the last day of regular session.

The DHS representatives also briefed me on DHS's intent to enforce the *Real ID Act* at all military installations in the U.S. as soon as June 7, 2017, and for TSA required travel on January 18, 2018. They made it very clear there will be no exceptions for enforcing the *Act*.

By not passing a bill this regular session, we will jeopardize Alaskans' ability to work and travel on our U.S. military installations and in January they will not be able to board a plane at a TSA controlled airport without a passport or a similar federal ID.

If you have any questions, please contact Leslie Ridle, in my office at 465-2200.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Fisher', written over the printed name.

Sheldon Fisher
Commissioner

cc: All legislators