

ASEA Opposes Proposed DMV Office Closures

Published: Feb. 23, 2021

ASEA/AFSCME Local 52 sent a letter to the Senate Department of Administration Finance Sub-Committee on Tuesday, February 23, 2021 opposing the proposed DMV office closures in Delta Junction, Eagle River, Haines, Homer, Tok, and Valdez. You can read our full letter to the committee:

Dear Senator Hoffman:

The Alaska State Employees Association, AFSCME Local 52, represents more than 8,000 state employees in Alaska's General Government Unit (GGU). Many of our members work in the Department of Administration, Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV). These GGU members are hard-working Alaska public servants that provide critical services to Alaskans, all over our state, many in rural area areas. I am writing you and Senate Finance Committee members in opposition to the Dunleavy Administration's effort to close six DMV offices across the state, and in their place create a "public-private partnership." As we understand it, the Administration is proposing to close the following DMV offices:

- Delta Junction: Mile 1420 Alaska Highway; Services include Road Tests, Knowledge Tests, & Vehicle Inspections: *Nearest DMV office with these services: 95 miles by road*
- Eagle River: 11723 Glenn Highway, Suite 114; Services include Knowledge Tests: *Nearest DMV office with these services: Anchorage, 16.6 miles*
- Haines: 259 Main Street, Suite 16; Services include Road Tests, Knowledge Tests, & Vehicle Inspections: *Nearest DMV office with these services: 20 miles away in Skagway, requiring ferry service*
- Homer: 3798 Lake Street, Suite B; Services include Road Tests, Knowledge Tests, & Vehicle Inspections: *Nearest DMV office with these services: Seward, 168 miles*
- Tok: Mile 1314 Alaska Highway; Services include Road Tests, Surety Bonds, & Vehicle Inspections: *Nearest DMV office with these services: Fairbanks, 202 miles*
- Valdez: 217 Meals Avenue, Suite 6; Services include Road Tests, Knowledge Tests, & Vehicle Inspections: *Nearest DMV office with these services: 120 miles by road*

First, ASEA members and residents in these communities are opposed to these closures because this is terrible public policy. It will negatively impact the residents and employees in these communities who depend on and provide DMV services. If these offices close, the affected communities will lose the following services: *Processing drivers licenses including CDLs, Real ID, and learner's permits. Providing driver's license testing including CDL exams. Processing and providing both new and used vehicle, trailer, and boat titles and registrations. Providing auto and boat licenses. Providing auto license plates including personalized and disabled veteran plates. Processing and providing SOA Employee ID cards. Processing and providing vehicle registrations and providing disabled driver permits among many other services.* By closing these offices and no longer providing these critical state services, Alaska residents in these communities will experience substantial hardship. Rural Alaska residents have suffered enough. They shouldn't have to suffer more by losing crucial, necessary services.

Second, ASEA opposes the State's request because it would violate our collective bargaining agreement (CBA). Currently, the Department of Administration has a CBA with ASEA/AFSCME Local 52. Under [Article 13 of the CBA](#), the DOA cannot unilaterally enter into a public-private business relationship without strictly complying with Article 13. Therefore, the DOA plan to replace DMV offices with a "public-private partnership" is the example of the cart before the horse and most likely illegal under our CBA.

Markets abhor a vacuum; one can expect that shortly after the closure of the State DMV locations "business partners" will be encouraged to open in these locations- circumventing Article 13 requirements.

I want to stress that the ASEA/AFSCME Local 52, the State's largest public employee union of state and municipal employees, wants to partner with the State and do what is right and best for Alaska. The State's success is our success. Our members love their jobs and work hard to provide the best, cost-efficient services to Alaska because we are Alaska residents. Our members depend on good policy and wise use of state resources. Outsourcing DMV work and closing DMV offices is not a good policy nor a good use of state resources. ASEA/AFSCME Local 52 opposes these DMV office closures and asks that your committee keep these offices whole in your budget proposal.

Please don't hesitate to contact our office with any other questions.

Sincerely,

Jake Metcalfe
Executive Director
ASEA/AFSCME Local 52

CC: Senator Bert Stedman, co-chair Senate Finance

From: [Landa Baily](#)
To: [Rep. Zack Fields](#)
Cc: [Rep. Sarah Vance](#); [Sen. Gary Stevens](#); [Rep. Bryce Edgmon](#)
Subject: HB 137 DMV Rural Alaska Support
Date: Monday, March 29, 2021 10:29:24 AM

Good morning: I am in strong support of HB 137, DMV offices in Rural Alaska. Keeping them open, especially in Homer, where there is no cost to the State of Alaska, and indeed where the DMV office actually raises money for the State of Alaska, makes fiscal sense.

Thank you for your sound reasoning, your continued commitment to Alaskans, to Alaskan Seniors, and to figuring out fiscal solutions to Alaska's miserable economy.

It seems to me, as an Alaskan with many years of work as a Special Assistant in the Alaska Legislature for both a democrat and a republican, that the role of legislators today is to make sure the State of Alaska generates revenues that ensure the delivery of required services, (in this case driving licenses), rather than to figure out ways to make individual Alaskans wealthy enough to afford to make campaign contributions by privatizing a government service.

Regards,
Landa Baily
Homer, Alaska

From: [Spot On](#)
To: [Rep. Zack Fields](#)
Subject: support for HB 137.
Date: Friday, March 26, 2021 5:15:17 PM

Dear Representative Fields,

We fully support passage of HB 137.

or YES on HB 137, it is good for Alaska.

We support HB 137, it protects Alaska Seniors and rural communities.

Patty Kearon

From: [Sandee Elvsaas](#)
To: [Rep. Zack Fields](#)
Subject: HB 137
Date: Friday, March 26, 2021 4:41:17 PM

We support HB 137!

Marie Elvsaas
Box 106
Seldovia, Alaska 99663



Virus-free. www.avg.com

From: [nhotch](#)
To: [Rep. Zack Fields](#)
Subject: HB 137
Date: Friday, March 26, 2021 4:51:50 PM

I am a senior who lives in Haines and I SUPPORT HB 137.

Sincerely
Nancy Hotch

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

From: [kathleen kearon zuyus](#)
To: [Rep. Zack Fields](#)
Subject: HB 137
Date: Friday, March 26, 2021 5:15:50 PM

I fully support HB 137 Protect State DMVs from closure

From: [Reservations by Randa](#)
To: [Rep. Zack Fields](#)
Subject: support HB 137
Date: Friday, March 26, 2021 5:20:31 PM

We support HB 137 to allow Haines to retain their DMV office.
Closing the DMV would create huge hardships for Haines residents.
Thank you.
Jim and Randa Szymanski

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PO Box 645 ~ 360 Lutak Road
Haines, Alaska 99827

Serving Haines and beyond since 1986

From: [Merri Darland](#)
To: [Rep. Zack Fields](#)
Subject: HB 137
Date: Saturday, March 27, 2021 11:15:59 AM

We support HB 137, don't close our DMV!

From: [Debra Fortune](#)
To: [Rep. Zack Fields](#)
Cc: [Rep. George Rauscher](#)
Subject: HB137
Date: Saturday, March 27, 2021 9:54:01 AM

We support HB137.

As a senior in a small rural community, I cannot state the importance of the DMV in our local community for residents of all ages. The nearest DMV to us is in Fairbanks, 100 miles away.

The idea of privatizing services and making Alaskans in these targeted small rural communities is not right. It will be a hardship and cost more. Simply it is discrimination on several levels.

I trust you and other legislators across Alaska to do what is right for ALL Alaskans.

Thank you

Debra Fortune

From: [Vanessa Wishstar](#)
To: [Rep. Zack Fields](#)
Subject: We support HB 137
Date: Sunday, March 28, 2021 9:18:32 PM

Please help keep the Haines, Alaska DMV open. This is NECESSARY in our tiny isolated town. We support HB 137!!! We're a family of four (two kids under 6yrs old) and if we need to renew a license etc., we can't take a week long trek on the limited service ferry to do so. PLEASE support HB 137.

Thank you,
Vanessa & Steve Wishstar
Haines, Alaska 99827

From: [peter zuyus](#)
To: [Rep. Zack Fields](#); [Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins](#)
Subject: Tshibaka mocks you
Date: Saturday, March 13, 2021 5:07:31 PM

Dear Representatives,
Yesterday Commissioner Kelly Tshibaka spoke at an AMAC meeting in Wasilla and addressed the DMV closure issue. Rather than express the impact of closures she took the opportunity to joke and mock you making effort to introduce legislation to prevent this from happening without legislative consent.

Seniors of Alaska supports you and your effort to create a legislative guarantee of control. The link below is her talk, which begins at minute 55.

Sincerely,
Peter T. Zuyus
Executive Director
Seniors of Alaska, Inc.
907-299-0539

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=493430208687445>