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Governor Bill Walker  
STATE OF ALASKA

February 12, 2015

The Honorable Mike Chenault  
Speaker of the House  
Alaska State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 208  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Speaker Chenault:

Under the authority of Article III, Section 18 of the Alaska Constitution, I am transmitting a bill relating to the powers and duties of the Attorney General to approve settlements related to matters involving disputes over oil and gas resources.

The bill would protect the public interest by requiring that, before approving a settlement on a matter related to the settlement of an action directly related to oil and gas lease matters under AS 38.05.005 - 38.05.990 (Alaska Land Act), the Attorney General must determine that the proposed settlement is limited to issues necessary to settle the action, does not settle unrelated matters, and does not alter constitutional, statutory, or regulatory procedures required by law.

This would not apply to settlements of oil and gas pipeline tariff matters, tax matters, or matters where the Department of Law performs the function of public advocate for regulatory affairs in matters before the Regulatory Commission of Alaska.

My proposal would safeguard the public's interest in the development of our oil and gas resources and assure that our State's tremendous resources are developed fairly and without harmful compromise.

I urge your prompt and favorable action on this measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill Walker".

Bill Walker  
Governor

Enclosure