

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
(A Department within the State of Alaska General Fund)

**Letter to the Members of the Legislative Council
and the Legislative Budget and Audit Committee**

For the Year Ended June 30, 2016

January 6, 2017

ELGEE REHFELD MERTZ, LLC

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

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January 6, 2017

The Members of the Legislative Council
and the Legislative Budget and Audit Committee
of the Alaska State Legislature

We have audited the Schedule of Appropriations, Expenditures and Encumbrances, and the Schedule of Revenues (the schedules) of the Alaska State Legislature (the Legislature) as of and for the year ended June 30, 2016, and have issued our report thereon dated January 6, 2017. Professional standards require that we advise you of the following matters relating to our audit.

Our Responsibility in Relation to the Audit

As communicated in our engagement letter dated June 1, 2016, our responsibility, as described by professional standards, is to form and express an opinion about whether the schedules that have been prepared by management with your oversight are presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our audit of the schedules does not relieve you or management of your respective responsibilities.

Our responsibility, as prescribed by professional standards, is to plan and perform our audit to obtain reasonable, rather than absolute, assurance about whether the schedules are free of material misstatement. An audit of schedules includes consideration of internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, as part of our audit, we considered the internal control of the Legislature solely for the purpose of determining our audit procedures and not to provide any assurance concerning such internal control.

We are also responsible for communicating significant matters related to the audit that are, in our professional judgment, relevant to your responsibilities in overseeing the financial reporting process. However, we are not required to design procedures for the purpose of identifying other matters to communicate to you.

Planned Scope and Timing of the Audit

We conducted our audit consistent with the planned scope and timing we previously communicated to you.

Compliance with All Ethics Requirements Regarding Independence

The engagement team, others in our firm, as appropriate, our firm, and our network firms have complied with all relevant ethical requirements regarding independence.

Qualitative Aspects of the Entity's Significant Accounting Practices

Significant Accounting Policies

Management has the responsibility to select and use appropriate accounting policies. A summary of the significant accounting policies adopted by the Legislature is included in Note 1 to the schedules. There have been no initial selection of accounting policies and no changes in significant accounting policies or their application during 2016. No matters have come to our attention that would require us, under professional standards, to inform you about (1) the methods used to account for significant unusual transactions and (2) the effect of significant accounting policies in controversial or emerging areas for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus.

Significant Accounting Estimates

Accounting estimates are an integral part of the schedules prepared by management and are based on management's current judgments. Those judgments are normally based on knowledge and experience about past and current events and assumptions about future events. Certain accounting estimates are particularly sensitive because of their significance to the schedules and because of the possibility that future events affecting them may differ markedly from management's current judgments. We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop estimates and determined that it is reasonable in relation to the schedules as a whole.

Schedule Disclosures

The schedule disclosures are neutral, consistent, and clear.

Significant Difficulties Encountered During the Audit

We encountered no significant difficulties in dealing with management relating to the performance of the audit.

Uncorrected and Corrected Misstatements

For purposes of this communication, professional standards require us to accumulate all known and likely misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that we believe are trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management. Further, professional standards require us to also communicate the effect of uncorrected misstatements related to prior periods on the relevant classes of transactions, account balances or disclosures, and the financial statements as a whole. No material misstatements were identified as a result of our audit procedures that required correction by management.

Disagreements with Management

For purposes of this letter, professional standards define a disagreement with management as a matter, whether or not resolved to our satisfaction, concerning a financial accounting, reporting, or auditing matter, which could be significant to the Legislature's schedules or the auditor's report. No such disagreements arose during the course of the audit.

Representations Requested from Management

We have requested certain written representations from management, which are included in the attached letter.

Management's Consultations with Other Accountants

In some cases, management may decide to consult with other accountants about auditing and accounting matters. Management informed us that, and to our knowledge, there were no consultations with other accountants regarding auditing and accounting matters, other than consultation for tax issues related to the office allowance account.

Other Significant Findings or Issues

In the normal course of our professional association with the Legislature, we generally discuss a variety of matters, including the application of accounting principles and auditing standards, operating and regulatory conditions affecting the entity, and operational plans and strategies that may affect the risks of material misstatement. None of the matters discussed resulted in a condition to our retention as the Legislature's auditors.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the Members of the Legislative Council and the Legislative Budget and Audit Committee and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be the letters "ERM" in a stylized, cursive font.

Alaska State Legislature

Legislative Affairs Agency

Office of the Executive Director

Terry Miller Legislative Office Building, Room 217

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January 6, 2017

Elgee Rehfeld Mertz, LLC
9309 Glacier Highway, Suite B-200
Juneau, AK 99801

This representation letter is provided in connection with your audit of the Schedule of Appropriations, Expenditures, and Encumbrances and the Schedule of Revenues of the Alaska State Legislature (the Legislature), a department within the State of Alaska General Fund, for the period ended June 30, 2016 for the purpose of expressing an opinion as to whether the schedules present fairly, in all material respects, the appropriations, expenditures and encumbrances and revenues of the Legislature in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (U.S. GAAP).

Certain representations in this letter are described as being limited to matters that are material. Items are considered material, regardless of size, if they involve an omission or misstatement of accounting information that, in the light of surrounding circumstances, makes it probable that the judgment of a reasonable person relying on the information would be changed or influenced by the omission or misstatement.

We confirm that, to the best of our knowledge and belief, having made such inquiries as we considered necessary for the purpose of appropriately informing ourselves as of January 6, 2017.

- We have fulfilled our responsibilities, as set out in the terms of the audit engagement dated June 1, 2016, for the preparations and fair presentation of the schedules referred to above in accordance with U.S. GAAP.
- We acknowledge our responsibility for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the schedules that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.
- We acknowledge our responsibility for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control to prevent and detect fraud.
- We acknowledge our responsibility for compliance with the laws, regulations, and provisions of contracts and grant agreements.
- We have reviewed, approved, and taken responsibility for the schedules and related notes.
- We have a process to track the status of audit findings and recommendations.
- We have identified and communicated to you all previous audits, attestations engagements, and other studies related to the audit objectives and whether related recommendations have been implemented.
- Significant assumptions used by us in making accounting estimates, including those measured at fair value, are reasonable.
- Related party relationships and transactions have been appropriately accounted for and disclosed in accordance with the requirements of U.S. GAAP.
- All events subsequent to the date of the schedules and for which U.S. GAAP requires adjustment or disclosure have been adjusted or disclosed.

- The effects of all known actual or possible litigation and claims have been accounted for and disclosed in accordance with U.S. GAAP.

Information Provided

- We provided you with:
 - Access to all information, of which we are aware that is relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the schedules referred to above, such as records, documentation, meeting minutes, and other matters;
 - Additional information that you have requested from us for the purpose of the audit; and
 - Unrestricted access to persons within the entity from whom you determined it necessary to obtain audit evidence.
- All transactions have been recorded in the accounting records and are reflected in the schedules.
- We have disclosed to you the results of our assessment of the risk that the schedules may be materially misstated as a result of fraud.
- We have no knowledge of any fraud or suspected fraud that affects the entity and involves:
 - Managements;
 - Employees who have significant roles in internal control; or
 - Others where the fraud could have a material effect on the schedules.
- We have no knowledge of any allegations of fraud, or suspected fraud, affecting the entity's schedules communicated by employees, former employees, vendors, regulators, or others.
- We have disclosed to you all known actual or possible litigation, claims, and assessments whose effects should be considered when preparing the financial statements.
- We have disclosed to you the identity of the entity's related parties and all the related party relationships and transactions of which we are aware.
- There have been no communications from regulatory agencies concerning noncompliance with or deficiencies in accounting, internal control, or financial reporting practices.
- Legislature has no plans or intentions that may materially affect the carrying value or classification of assets and liabilities.
- We have disclosed to you all guarantees, whether written or oral, under which Legislature is contingently liable.
- We have disclosed to you all significant estimates and material concentrations known to management that are required to be disclosed in accordance with GASB Statement No. 62 (GASB-62), *Codification of Accounting and Financial Reporting Guidance Contained in Pre-November 30, 1989 FASB and AICPA Pronouncements*. Significant estimates are estimates at the balance sheet date that could change materially within the next year. Concentrations refer to volumes of business, revenues, available sources of supply, or markets or geographic areas for which events could occur that would significantly disrupt normal finances within the next year.
- We have identified and disclosed to you the laws, regulations, and provisions of contracts and grant agreements that could have a direct and material effect on schedule amounts, including legal and contractual provisions for reporting specific activities in separate funds.
- There are no:
 - Violations or possible violations of laws or regulations, or provisions of contracts or grant agreements whose effects should be considered for disclosure in the schedules, or as a basis for recording a loss contingency, including applicable budget laws and regulations.
 - Unasserted claims or assessments that our lawyer has advised are probable of assertion and must be disclosed in accordance with GASB-62
 - Other liabilities or gain or loss contingencies that are required to be accrued or disclosed by GASB-62.

- We acknowledge our responsibility for the design and implementation of programs and controls to prevent and detect fraud.
- The Legislature has complied with all aspects of contractual agreements that would have a material effect on the schedules in the event of noncompliance.
- We have followed all applicable laws and regulations in adopting, approving, and amending budgets.



Pamela A. Varni
Executive Director



Jessica Geary
Finance Manager