

P.O box 521174 Big Lake , AK 99652

March 18, 2017

Honorable Jonathan Kreiss-Tompkins
Chair, House State Affairs Committee
State Capital, Room 411
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Chairman Kreiss-Tompkins,

I would like to express my support for HB 158, "An Act relating to the location of offices for the Alaska Public Offices Commission and the locations at which certain statements and reports filed with the commission are made available".

My first duty as an APOC Commissioner was to review pertinent statutes. It was disappointing to realize that a commission charged with enforcing the law has always been in violation of the law that established it. I am grateful that this hypocrisy is finally being addressed.

During the last budget cycle, commissioners attempted to create a central location as a cost saving measure that would have the least impact on operations, however, a political decision was made at the Department of Administration level that prevented the commissioners from enacting that decision.

This bill acknowledges the fiscal constraints we live under and gives the commission the mandate they require to enact sound management practices.

As to the publication of reports, the very mission of APOC is transparency. Passage of this bill would enhance that transparency and bring it up to date with technological advances that have occurred since this statute was created.

In short this bill is clean, it brings APOC into compliance with their own statute and reinforces their primary mission of transparent public disclosure of public officials and campaign finances.

As a fiscal note, one could foresee that an IT professional dedicated to APOC may be a necessary expense to implement the law. However, the reduction in errors that a well-maintained reporting system would have would decrease hours of staff investigation time, and could be paid for by shifting funds from a current position.

During my time on APOC these changes were discussed and I believe there would be support among the commissioners to give them the force of law required for the commission to implement them.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark Fish". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mark Fish
Former APOC Commissioner, 2015-2016