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Governor Michael J. Dunleavy
STATE OF ALASKA

January 29, 2019

The Honorable Cathy Giessel
Senate President
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 111
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear President Giessel:

Under the authority of Article III, Section 18, of the Alaska Constitution, I am transmitting a resolution to amend the Constitution of the State of Alaska, Article IX, Section 1. The proposed amendment would provide that any law to establish or increase a State tax – any tax – will not take effect without an affirmative vote of the people. Additionally, the proposed amendment would require any initiative passed by the voters that would establish or increase a state tax would not take effect unless approved by the legislature.

I propose this measure as the most effective means to require State government to involve all Alaskans in the decision to levy or increase taxes to pay for State services. My proposal retains taxing power with the legislature but ensures that the legislature must listen to the voice of the people, which is exercised through the ballot box. This amendment would be placed before the voters during the next state general election.

Our State cannot achieve a permanent fiscal plan if Alaskans are not directly involved in the decisions about the types and levels of State services they desire and are willing to support. With this resolution, we can establish an effective way to implement the will of the people and move the State forward in a transparent and positive manner. All government officials work for the people of the State of Alaska.

I urge your prompt and favorable action on this measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael J. Dunleavy".

Michael J. Dunleavy
Governor

Enclosure