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Governor Michael J. Dunleavy
STATE OF ALASKA

March 20, 2020

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

Dear Speaker Edgmon:

Under the authority of Article III, Section 18, of the Alaska Constitution, I am transmitting a bill relating to an extension of my March 11, 2020, public health disaster emergency declaration.

On March 11, 2020, the commissioner of the Department of Health and Social Services certified that a credible threat exists of an imminent outbreak of disease due to the worldwide spread of the novel coronavirus disease COVID-19. Accordingly, on March 12, 2020, I declared a public health disaster emergency to initiate a unified command structure between the Department of Health and Social Services and the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs to implement statutory powers to address the public health emergency and keep Alaskans safe. This bill allows for an extension of this declaration until March 12, 2021. I have proposed a one year extension due to the uncertainty and unknown duration of the global pandemic. The bill further provides for necessary actions to protect public health, safety, and general welfare to address the effects of the COVID-19 outbreak.

We understand from solid public health evidence and the experiences of other countries that major, long-term measures will be needed to address this pandemic. I urge your prompt support to safeguard the health and wellbeing of all Alaskans.

Sincerely,

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

Mike Dunleavy
Governor

Enclosure