

April 4, 2022

Public Comments #3 in Opposition to SB 189 (PBJ)

Chair Holland, Vice Chair Shower, and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

In addition to my previous public comments dated March 4 and March 23, two issues have been brought to my attention over the past few days which are the subject of these additional comments:

1. On March 30, Ms. Terra Burns of Community United contacted me. We traded some texts and emails and then spoke at length on Friday morning for the first time. Ms. Burns, who said she is a sex trafficking victim and speaks for herself and other victims, has submitted two letters of opposition to SB 189. I asked her on a scale of 1-10 how opposed she was to the current version of the bill? A strong "10" was her reply.
2. On the morning of March 31, a close friend from a community near Anchorage sent me a link to an article in the Alaska Watchman by David Haeg; I was previously unfamiliar with the publication and the author. Through this article and subsequent email communications with Mr. Haeg and others, I have learned that he and 500 citizens in the Kenai area are calling for a "grand jury investigation into Department of Law corruption." This fact lends considerable credence to my previous public comments.

Regarding the pending grand jury/DOL corruption issue, my March 31 afternoon email to Sen. Micciche and Ms. Jill Schaeffer, copied to several legislators including each of you, has generated some very interesting results. People of influence in Alaska politics have copied me in on emails pertaining to the requested grand jury investigation. I currently have reason to believe several legislators are in support of the Kenai group, and hope to find out more later today in the Capitol building.

Please understand that there has been no time for me to independently verify the statements of Ms. Burns, Mr. Haeg, or others, but they certainly seem to have merit on the surface -- especially given my knowledge of prosecutorial and judicial conduct here in my hometown.

Sen. Hughes, after my public testimony on March 4, you spoke to me about your concern for victims of sex trafficking. Why then, aren't you listening to Ms. Burns?

Ms. Burns told me she has a Bachelor's degree in psychology and a Masters degree from UAF, where she did her thesis on sex trafficking. She told me that in 2015 she was involved with the Sex Crimes Working Group of the Alaska Criminal Justice Commission. She told me that Mr. Skidmore tried to throw her out of a meeting, but Dean Williams, Quinlan Steiner and Brenda Stanfield all stood up for her.

On the other hand, Ms. Burns told me about some occurrences involving third parties that Sen. Kiehl later questioned when we spoke in his office Friday afternoon. Later, on Friday evening I figuratively ran into a brick wall trying to confirm some relevant facts in a series of texts with Ms. Burns and Ms. Maxine Doogan.

Ms. Burns said she only discusses things with legislators that she has documentary evidence of; applying her standards I'm apparently out on a limb for raising her stated credentials with you. (BTW, my

professional training certainly makes me appreciate what Ms. Burns is saying, but my response to her was that I simply didn't have the time or the resources to verify her statements before talking with any Committee members that could be located in advance of this afternoon's meeting).

Who knows, applying Ms. Burns standards where's the documentation she's a former sex worker representing other victims? Can I rule out the possibility her organization is connected to a troll farm funded by the Kremlin? You tell me – each of you probably knows her a lot better than I do. When I asked where she was calling from, she was very vague, hesitating to even tell me her compass direction away from a particular Alaska city. Who and what is supposed to be believed, right? Isn't that an important issue in the bill, especially when it comes to the Vacation of Judgment components?

Obviously, each of you will believe who and what you want to. Will you disregard Ms. Burns who says she speaks for sex trafficking victims? Will you disregard Mr. Haeg or 500 Kenai citizens who say they are concerned about corruption within the Department of Law? Will you disregard me, who's put hundreds of hours into documenting the story of John Doe #2 and many hours in trying to verify what prosecutors did after hearing the testimony of the grand juror in John Doe #3? Will you disregard a decorated Army combat pilot who served his country for 25 years before moving with his wife to Hoonah?

Based on these additional comments, how can any of you vote to pass SB 189 through Committee without a major overhaul incorporating the perspectives of those who are independent of the Department of Law?

Thank you,

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