

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TRADE AND
TOURISM

January 17, 2013
10:18 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Representative Shelley Hughes, Chair
Representative Bob Herron
Representative Pete Higgins
Representative Lance Pruitt
Representative Harriet Drummond
Representative Geran Tarr

MEMBERS ABSENT

Representative Lynn Gattis
Representative Craig Johnson
Representative Kurt Olson

COMMITTEE CALENDAR

COMMITTEE ORGANIZATION

PREVIOUS COMMITTEE ACTION

No previous action to record

WITNESS REGISTER

No witnesses to record

ACTION NARRATIVE

[10:18:31 AM](#)

CHAIR SHELLEY HUGHES called the House Special Committee on Economic Development, Trade and Tourism meeting to order at 10:18 a.m. Representatives Higgins, Pruitt, Herron, Drummond, Tarr, and Hughes were present at the call to order.

Committee Organization

[10:19:29 AM](#)

CHAIR HUGHES invited members of the committee to describe the districts they represent and to introduce their staff.

[10:26:36 AM](#)

CHAIR HUGHES discussed the mission of the committee. She said she was interested in this committee not only because of the importance of economic growth to the overall health and well-being of a prosperous Alaska, but also that this importance extends to individuals, families, youth, elders, and to maintaining strong communities. A thriving state economy is needed to ensure that youth have opportunities, adults can succeed, and the needs of elders are met. The EDT committee has an important role in Alaska's future as it makes recommendations to the legislature, supports new opportunities, and helps improve the business climate. Along with natural resources, all of the various other business sectors in the state need serious consideration. Finally, Chair Hughes stressed that her goal for the committee - in addition to education - is to make EDT a committee of relevance and one that is integral to moving the state forward.

[10:29:47 AM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE DRUMMOND spoke of her experience with tourism statewide and noted its importance to the economic development of the state.

[10:30:43 AM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE HIGGINS said economic development is important to him and cautioned that the importance of oil sometimes pushes to the side other industries that, with sufficient infrastructure, should be brought to the forefront.

[10:31:30 AM](#)

CHAIR HUGHES reviewed committee logistics and protocols with the members. She indicated electronics are allowed in the committee room as long as they are put on silent/no vibrate. Voting standards to adopt and pass an amendment require a majority of those present, and to move a bill from committee requires a majority of the committee. A request for a hearing on a bill must be in writing, along with copies of the sponsor statement, a current version of the bill, the fiscal note, and a sectional analysis if necessary. All submissions should be sent

electronically and identified. Twenty-four hour notice will be necessary for hearing requests and amendments.

CHAIR HUGHES then advised members of standard questions that she would like all testifiers to be prepared to answer. The first presenters before the committee will be: the Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute (ASMI), the Alaska Railroad Corporation (ARR), and the Alaska Energy Authority (AEA), along with updates from the Department of Commerce, Community, & Economic Development (DCCED). The committee will also hear from organizations such as the Alaska Municipal League (AML) and the travel industry. In addition, the committee will hear any referred legislation. She invited members to suggest other topics.

[10:39:24 AM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE HERRON advised he and Representative Cathy Munoz will submit a request to make a presentation on their trip to the Aklan Province in the Philippines. On 1/26/13, the Filipino-American Association of Juneau (Fil-Am) will hold a legislative reception describing the trip.

[10:40:48 AM](#)

CHAIR HUGHES discussed scheduling conflicts and asked members to submit the times of their other committee obligations to the committee aide. She then encouraged members to attend the Lunch and Learn on 1/23/13 introducing the Pacific NorthWest Economic Region (PNWER) with presentations by the Premier of the Northwest Territories and by Senator Lesil McGuire and Representative Herron on the Arctic Caucus. Chair Hughes also asked new members to explore the purview of DCCED.

[10:44:32 AM](#)

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the committee, the House Special Committee on Economic Development, Trade and Tourism meeting was adjourned at 10:44 a.m.