

**ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE**  
**HOUSE LABOR AND COMMERCE STANDING COMMITTEE**

January 28, 2022

3:22 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Representative Zack Fields, Co-Chair  
Representative Ivy Spohnholz, Co-Chair  
Representative David Nelson  
Representative James Kaufman

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Representative Calvin Schrage  
Representative Liz Snyder  
Representative Ken McCarty

**COMMITTEE CALENDAR**

OVERVIEW: INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT AND JOBS ACT

- HEARD

**PREVIOUS COMMITTEE ACTION**

No previous action to record

**WITNESS REGISTER**

NOLAN KLOUDA, Executive Director  
Center for Economic Development  
UAA Business Enterprise Institute  
Anchorage, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Gave a PowerPoint presentation entitled, "Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act;" Co-presented a PowerPoint, entitled "Alaska's Nonprofit Sector: Generating Economic Impact" during the Overview on the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

MIKE WALSH, Vice President of Public Policy  
The Foraker Group  
Anchorage, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Co-presented a PowerPoint, entitled "Alaska's Nonprofit Sector: Generating Economic Impact" during the Overview on the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

## **ACTION NARRATIVE**

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**CO-CHAIR FIELDS** called the House Labor and Commerce Standing Committee meeting to order at 3:22 p.m. Representatives Fields, Spohnholz, Nelson, and Kaufman were present at the call to order.

### **OVERVIEW: Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act**

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CO-CHAIR FIELDS announced that the only order of business would be an overview of Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

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NOLAN KLOUDA, Executive Director, Center for Economic Development, UAA Business Enterprise Institute, gave a PowerPoint presentation entitled, "Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act" [hard copy included in the committee packet]. The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) was a congressional infrastructure bill authorizing \$550 billion in new spending on transportation, energy, water/wastewater, and broadband. The spending would be spread over five years with a mix of formula funding, direct spending, loan funds, and competitive grants. Formula funds going to Alaska included \$3.4 billion for federal highway aid, \$392 million for airports, \$368 million for water infrastructure, \$362 million for public transportation, \$225 for bridge repair/replacement, \$100 million for broadband, \$52 million for electric vehicle charging, \$19 million for wildfire protection, and \$11 million for cybersecurity. The Denali Commission would be funded \$75 million. The Alaska Marine Highway System (AMHS) would receive \$1 billion for essential ferry services. Other important features of the bill included streamlined permitting processes; port and infrastructure development; nonprimary airport infrastructure grants; \$3.5 going to Indian Health Service (IHS) sanitation facilities; and Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment Program with \$100 million per state. State broadband subgrants were specifically for unserved/underserved areas defined by less than 100/25 Mbps. Additional programs of interest were the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Mitigation Assistance Program (\$3.5 billion); energy grid reliability grants (\$5 billion); energy infrastructure assistance (\$5 billion); grid improvements for rural and remote

areas (\$1 billion); weatherization assistance program (\$3.5 billion); carbon capture, utilization, and storage (\$8 billion); low emission fuels funding; supply chains for clean energy funding; and orphaned oil and gas well cleanup. The following were critical issues for state government: organizational capacity; capital versus operating funds; matching funds needed for some grants; and coordination between different functions. Further considerations included workforce shortages; cost/supply of building materials; and long lead time on some projects.

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MIKE WALSH, Vice President of Public Policy, The Foraker Group, co-presented a PowerPoint, entitled "Alaska's Nonprofit Sector: Generating Economic Impact" [hard copy included in the committee packet]. The Foraker Group was a nonprofit organization with a long history of service to Tribal organizations and local government. He provided an overview of the agenda for the presentation.

MR. KLOUDA continued the presentation by sharing that the economic impact of Alaska nonprofits was significant. Nonprofits directly employed 38,000 people in the state. The largest share of nonprofits was 501(c)(3) organizations, dominated by religious entities, education, and human services. Alaska nonprofits were a major economic driver, creating jobs and income that rippled through communities. In summary, 58,000 jobs out of 300,000 total in the state were tied to nonprofits, with a direct payroll of \$4 billion. One in four non-government jobs were tied to nonprofits. The gender pay gap still needed improvement. The gap between men and women was smallest at nonprofits with fewer than 10 employees; however, average wages grew as nonprofits got bigger and the pay gap grew with increased earnings. Approximately half of the nonprofit jobs were in the healthcare sector. In 2020, nonprofits brought in \$7.8 billion in revenue. During the COVID-19 Pandemic, nonprofits paid a high price but lost fewer jobs than other sectors.

MR. WALSH concluded the presentation by discussing next steps and highlighting interactive tools on The Foraker Group's website.

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#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the committee, the House Labor and Commerce Standing Committee meeting was adjourned at 4:41 p.m.