

3/01/11

Confirmation:  
Susan Bell,  
Commissioner,  
Department of  
Commerce,  
Community &  
Economic  
Development

<TARGET><BILL></BILL><SUBJECT>3-01-11 Confirmation Susan  
Bell, Commissioner, Department of Commerce, Community and  
Economic Development</SUBJECT><COMM>HEDT27</COMM></TARGET>

# Bell, Susan

Commissioner - Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development

## SUSAN K. BELL

### RECENT PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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Commissioner, State of Alaska Juneau

- Responsibilities as commissioner for the Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development include developing and implementing programs that promote a healthy economy, strengthen communities, and protect Alaska consumers.

Special Assistant, Office of the Governor Juneau

- Served as a liaison and policy advisor for the Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development; Department of Revenue; and Department of Administration.
- Contributed to passage of economic development legislation including enhancement of State of Alaska business financing opportunities, reduction of business taxes, and increased marketing for Alaskan industries.

Principal, McDowell Group Juneau

- Contributed to significant business expansion of the Alaska research and consulting firm in terms of employees, projects, and sales.
- Managed significant portfolio of projects involving economic development, market research, and public opinion research.
- Extensive project management experience in tourism and transportation, ANCSA corporation development, and feasibility studies for public and private sector infrastructure projects.

Vice President, Goldbelt Incorporated Juneau

- Responsible for 11 business ventures. Responsible for formation of management team during period of rapid corporate investment and growth.
- Achieved consistent growth in gross sales, net income, and shareholder employment.
- Developed management and shareholder training program.

### PERSONAL INFORMATION

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- Lifetime Alaska resident; born in Nome and raised in Fairbanks.
- Shareholder of Bering Straits Native Corporation and Sitnasuak Native Corporation.
- Married to Robert Koentizer since 1999.
- Big Brothers Big Sisters volunteer.
- Enjoys outdoor activities including skiing, biking, and hiking.

### EDUCATION

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- BLA from University of Alaska.

# CONFIRMATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Action date: \_\_\_\_\_

3.1.11

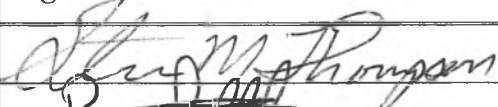
The House Special Committee on Economic Development, Trade, and Tourism has reviewed the qualifications of the following Governor's appointee and recommends that this name be forwarded to a joint session for consideration:

**Commissioner – Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic  
Development**

Susan Bell

Appointed: 7/8/2010

This does not reflect intent by any of the members to vote for or against this individual during any further sessions for the purposes of confirmation.

Signature:	Printed Last Name
	Thompson
<del>John K. White</del>	
Chair & Jim	Herron
R. G. ...	Joule
Seal ...	Foster
Cathy Muñoz	Muñoz
Chair:	

Please return to the Chief Clerk's office.





Official Business

# Alaska State Legislature

House of Representatives

Office of the Chief Clerk

Thomas B. Stewart Legislative  
Office Building, Room 202  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182  
Phone: (907) 465-3725  
Fax: (907) 465-5334

## MEMORANDUM

Date: February 2, 2011

To: Representative Herron, Chair  
House Special Committee on Economic Development, Trade, and Tourism

From: Suzi Lowell, Chief Clerk *SL*

Subject: Governor's Appointment(s)

The Speaker referred the following Governor's appointment(s) to the Community and Regional Affairs Committee and the House Special Committee on Economic Development, Trade, and Tourism:

**Commissioner – Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development**  
Susan Bell  
Appointed: 7/8/2010

The Confirmation Committee Report and resume are attached for your use. In addition, the resume is also being sent electronically.

Attachments as noted

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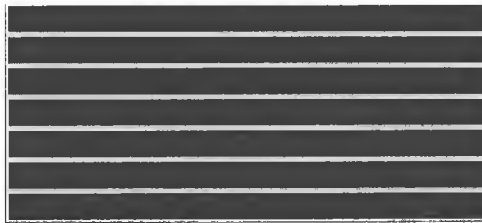
State of Alaska > Commerce

## OUR MISSION: PROMOTING A HEALTHY ECONOMY AND STRONG COMMUNITIES.



**Susan K. Bell**  
Commissioner

### Divisions:



### What's Hot

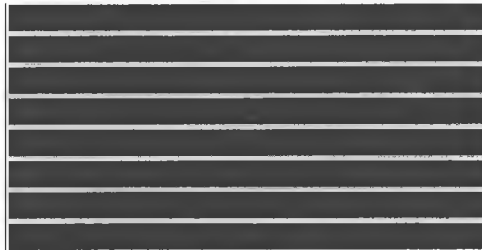
- [2009 Alaska Economic Performance Report](#)
- [State, NASA ink new agreement](#)
- [First customers for new energy loans](#)
- [DCCED at international forum](#)
- [Fuel Watch 2010](#)
- [State highlights top 10 investor traps](#)
- [DCCED assists with relocation of the Village of Newtok](#)

[Archived News Articles](#)



**Curtis Thayer**  
Deputy  
Commissioner

### Corporate Agencies:



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Court System Information  
Court of Appeals Slip Opinions  
Supreme Court Oral Argument Calendar  
Supreme Court Slip Opinions  
Alaska Trial Court Cases

[Back to top](#)

## Department of Administration

907-465-2200  
Alaska Public Broadcasting Commission  
Division of Administrative Services  
Enterprise Technology Services  
Division of Finance  
Division of General Services  
Division of Motor Vehicles--On-line Services  
Division of Personnel and Labor Relations  
Division of Retirement and Benefits  
Division of Risk Management  
Office of Equal Employment Opportunity  
Office of Public Advocacy  
Office of Administrative Hearings  
Oil and Gas Conservation Commission  
Public Defender Agency  
Public Offices Commission - APOC  
Training and Development  
Violent Crimes Compensation Board

[Back to top](#)

## Department of Commerce, Community & Economic Development

907-465-2500  
Alaska Aerospace Corporation  
Alaska Energy Authority  
Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority  
Alaska Railroad Corporation  
Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute  
Division of Administrative Services  
Division of Banking and Securities  
Division of Community & Regional Affairs  
Division of Economic Development  
Division of Insurance  
Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing  
Office of the Commissioner  
Office of International Trade (in Governor's Office)  
Regulatory Commission of Alaska  
Serve Alaska, State Service Commission

[Back to top](#)

## Department of Corrections

907-465-4652  
Division of Administrative Services  
Division of Probation and Parole  
Division of Institutions  
Parole Board

[Back to top](#)

## Department of Education and Early Development

907-465-2800  
Commission on Postsecondary Education (Alaska Student Loans)  
Division of Libraries, Archives & Museums  
SLED (Statewide Library Electronic Doorway)  
State Council on the Arts




# DIVISION OF Community and Regional Affairs

**Our Mission:**

Within the scope of the Department's mission, DCRA promotes strong communities and healthy economies by providing information, technical and financial assistance, and other capacity building resources.

**EXTRA! EXTRA!**

- ▶  **Current Community Conditions: Fuel Prices Across Alaska**
  - January 2011 Update
- ▶ **AKSSF Outreach and Education Matching Grant Program**
  - Program Application Guidelines
  - Program Application.pdf
  - Program Application.doc
- ▶ **Notice of Public Meeting Local Boundary Commission (LBC)**
- ▶ **Lien Watch: A Report of Small Community Liens November-December 2010**
- ▶ **Dillingham Annexation Petition Preliminary Report Released**
- ▶ **Chinook Salmon Direct Distribution Program**
- ▶ **Notice of Filing of Petition for Annexation to the City of Gustavus**
- ▶ **FY12 Library Construction and Major Expansion Matching Grant Program**
  - Program Application Guidelines
  - Program Application.pdf
  - Program Application.doc
- ▶ **Southeast Alaska Chinook Salmon Mitigation Infrastructure Grants**
  - Program Guide
  - Application.pdf
  - Application.doc
  - Southeast Region Map

**Information by Community**

- ▶ Alaska Community Database
- ▶ Alaska Community Directory
- ▶ Capital Project Database
- ▶ Community Funding Database
- ▶ Community Maps
- ▶ Community Infrastructure Library
- ▶ Community Plans Library
- ▶ Financial Documents Delivery System
- ▶ More...

**Special Interest Items**

- ▶ Alaska Statutes/Title 29
- ▶ Enhanced Rural Financial Services Initiative
- ▶ Newtok Planning Group
- ▶ Sample Documents for Alaska Municipal Land Management Handbook
- ▶ Alaska Municipal Land Management Handbook
- ▶ Who's Planning Alaska

**Funding Resources**

- ▶ **The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)**
  - FY2010 Community Economic Stimulus Program (GSF)
  - FFY 09 Community Development Block Grant(CDBG) - Recovery
  - FFY 09/10 Community Services Block Grant(CSBG) - ARRA
- ▶ **Community Revenue Share FY2011 Applications**
  - Borough Application
  - City Application
  - Unincorporated Application
- ▶ **Direct Community Payments**
  - Community Revenue Sharing
  - Payment in Lieu of Taxes



Scott Ruby, Director

E-mail Scott

**DCRA by Programs**

- ▶ Grants Section
- ▶ Financial Assistance to Communities
- ▶ Local Government Management Assistance
- ▶ Local Boundary Commission
- ▶ Local Government Online (LOGON)
- ▶ Office of the State Assessor (OSA)
- ▶ Research & Analysis Section Rural Utility Business Advisor (RUBA)
- ▶ Planning and Land Management

**Miscellaneous**

- ▶ Calendar of Events
- ▶ Publications
- ▶ Related Links
- ▶ Contact DCRA Staff

**Economic and Demographic Resources**

- ▶ 2010 Community Development Resources(CDR)

- › Southeast Alaska Chinook salmon infrastructure grant regulations
  - Notice of proposed regulations
  - Proposed regulations
- › Fuel Watch 2010
- › 2010 Alaska Taxable
- › Community and Regional Affairs Programs Available
- › View Past "Extra! Extra!"
- › 2011 Report to the Legislature, National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska
- › Chinook Salmon Direct Distribution Program
- › Alaska's Rural Population Report, November 2009

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Programs and Links

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Questions for Commissioner Susan Bell  
EDT/CRA Joint Confirmation MTG – 3.1.11, 8 AM

1. Do you think CRA works well under the umbrella of DCCED? Is inter agency communication between divisions easy and successful and, if not, are there plans for facilitating inter-agency communication and collaboration within DCCED?
  
2. In the house DCCED Sub Committee budget, the decrement for Ilisavik College was denied. As such \$600.0 in base funding for this program will continue. Why did the department propose cutting this funding and do you have any comments on successes or failures of this program? (Note: It seems like the reason for this deletion of funding was that it was labeled by the Governor's request as an OTI, but there is no indication that the legislature intended this to be one-time funding).
  
3. The funding in the CRA budget to maintain a position that provides communities with land management, site control verification, planning assistance services and management of Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) was meant for training a new planner when the current planner retires. The sub finance committee added this funding to the base going forward. Do you have a timeline for the retirement of the current planner working on ANCSA and the completion of training of his/her replacement? Should the legislature be looking forward to a decrement (base) for this funding once the transition is complete? Is it helpful to have CRA within DCCED for communications regarding land status issues and capital grants?
  
4. Can you give us an update on the Newtok Relocation? What can we do to help?
  
5. How successful was the Fuel Watch Program this year? Did you learn anything this year that will lead to changes in the program?
  
6. Do you think Redistricting or out-migration will have a negative effect on DCCED funding directed toward the YK Delta (or other rural areas in the state) in the near future?
  
7. Can you tell us about the initiative to better coordinate all the state's international trade efforts? Any discussions about moving the Office of Int'l Trade from the Gov's office to the Division of Economic Development?

8. **Have you heard any discussions about possibly increasing the state's contribution to ARDOR funding? (It could be funded from AIDEA program receipts?)**

### **DART**

Regarding: Developing Alaska Rural Tourism (DART). How many employees work on that program? What are some recent successes? Planning any changes to the program?

### **Broadband Task Force**

Rep Herron was just appointed to the 20-member Statewide Broadband Task Force. Any idea when the first meeting will be? Will the meetings be telephonic or in person? Is it fair to say the Task Force's mission is to provide high-speed internet to every Alaskan as soon as possible? With the federal budget crisis, how do you see Alaska achieving this goal? What funding sources will be used?

### **Alaska Railroad Corp.**

How's the Railroad's financial health these days?

A couple years ago the Railroad expanded service to Grandview and Spencer Glacier. How is that going? Does the railroad make money off that service?

How much room do you think there is for expanded "rail tourism" in Alaska? How about the ski train? Does the RR turn a profit on that? And is the flag stop north of Talkeetna still operating? Port McKensie Rail Extension: is this project moving forward and when will it be complete? How will the extension help the Railroad?

### **Corporate Agency Governance**

DCCED included eight corporate agencies, right? What level of control does the Commissioner have over these agencies? Does the level of control vary per agency, and do you think the levels of Commissioner-control over the agencies is appropriate or would you like to see any of that change?

### **Board of AIDEA**

How has your experience as a Board member of AIDEA been so far? How many board members does AIDEA have right now? When will the Board be full? Can the Board function without full membership? Tell us about the new Public Members on the Board and if you think they will work out OK. . HBs 119 and 120 recently passed out of the EDT committee. Can you describe how these bills are important to AIDEA pursuing its mission?

### **DCCED Reorganization**

You of course recently combined the Division of Investments with the Office of E.D. at DCCED. Is that process complete and how do you think the new order better serves Alaskans? Any other major changes at DCCED in the works?

### **DCRA**

Scott Ruby seems to be doing a good job as new Director over at DCRA. Comments?