

**3/31/11  
CONFIRMATION  
HEARING:  
SUSAN BELL,  
COMMISSIONER  
DCCED**

<TARGET><BILL></BILL><SUBJECT>3-31-11 CONFIRMATION  
HEARING SUSAN BELL, COMMISSIONER,  
DCCED</SUBJECT><COMM>SCRA27</COMM></TARGET>



# Alaska State Legislature

## Senate

### Office of the Secretary

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Official Business

## Memorandum

TO: Senator Olson, Chair  
Community and Regional Affairs Committee

FROM: Kirsten Waid *KW*  
Secretary of the Senate

DATE: February 2, 2011

SUBJECT: Confirmation of Governor's Appointment

Pursuant to AS 39.05.080, the President has referred the following name for legislative confirmation to your committee for a hearing, recommendation and report:

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

Susan Bell

Appointed: 7/8/2010

Resume(s) will be transmitted electronically.

KW:jcs  
gl #2

## **CONSTITUTION of ALASKA**

### ARTICLE III, Section 25 - Department Heads.

The head of each principal department shall be a single executive unless otherwise provided by law. He shall be appointed by the governor, subject to confirmation by a majority of the members of the legislature in joint session, and shall serve at the pleasure of the governor, except as otherwise provided in this article with respect to the secretary of state. The heads of all principal departments shall be citizens of the United States.

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## **ALASKA STATUTES**

### Sec. 39.05.020. Appointment of department heads.

The governor shall appoint the head of each principal executive department in the state government. Each appointment is subject to confirmation by a majority of the members of the legislature in joint session.

# 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.

**Sec. 44.33.010. Commissioner of commerce, community, and economic development.**

The principal executive officer of the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development is the commissioner of commerce, community and economic development. Except with respect to the commissioner's membership on the board of directors of the Alaska Railroad Corporation, whenever a statute provides that the commissioner is a member of a board, council, or other similar entity, the commissioner may designate an employee of the department to act in the commissioner's place.

**Sec. 44.33.020. Duties of department; regulations.**

(a) The Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development shall

- (1) advise and assist local governments;
- (2) advise the governor and other commissioners on the delivery of government services to rural areas, including services relating to public safety, justice, economic development, natural resource management, education, and public health;
- (3) make recommendations to the governor and other commissioners about policy changes that would affect rural governments and rural affairs;
- (4) serve as staff for the Local Boundary Commission;
- (5) conduct studies and carry out experimental and pilot projects for the purpose of developing solutions to community and regional problems;
- (6) promote cooperative solutions to problems affecting more than one community or region, including joint service agreements, regional compacts, and other forms of cooperation;
- (7) serve as a clearinghouse for information useful in solution of community and regional problems, and channel to the appropriate authority requests for information and services;
- (8) advise and assist community and regional governments on matters of finance, including but not limited to bond marketing and procurement of federal funds;
- (9) prepare suggested guidelines relating to the content of notice of bond sale advertisements, prospectuses, and other bonding matters issued by local governments;
- (10) administer state funds appropriated for the benefit of unorganized regions within the state, allowing for maximum participation by local advisory councils and similar bodies;
- (11) as assigned through a delegation by the governor, administer and implement the state's role in the federal community development quota program established under 16 U.S.C. 1855(i) or a successor federal program; the department may adopt regulations under a delegation from the governor to implement duties under this paragraph;

(12) carry out those administrative functions in the unorganized borough that the legislature may prescribe;

(13) study existing and proposed laws and state activities that affect community and regional affairs and submit to the governor recommended changes in those laws and activities;

(14) coordinate activities of the state that affect community and regional affairs;

(15) assist in the development of new communities and serve as the agent of the state for purposes of participation in federal programs relating to new communities;

(16) supervise planning, management, and other activities required for local eligibility for financial aid under those federal and state programs that provide assistance to community and regional governments;

(17) advise and assist municipalities on procedures of assessment, valuation, and taxation, and notify municipalities of major errors in those procedures;

(18) apply for, receive, and use funds from federal and other sources, public or private, for use in carrying out the powers and duties of the department;

(19) request and utilize the resources of other agencies of state government in carrying out the purposes of this chapter to the extent such utilization is more efficient than maintaining departmental staff, reimbursing the other agencies when appropriate;

(20) administer state and, as appropriate, federal programs for revenue sharing, grants, and other forms of financial assistance to community and regional governments;

(21) administer the state programs relating to commerce or community development, enforce the laws relating to these programs, and adopt regulations under these laws;

(22) register corporations;

(23) collect corporation franchise taxes;

(24) enforce state laws regulating public utilities and other public service enterprises, banking and securities, insurance, and other businesses and enterprises touched with a public interest;

(25) make veterans' loans;

(26) furnish the budgeting, clerical, and administrative services for regulatory agencies and professional and occupational licensing boards not otherwise provided for;

(27) conduct studies, enter into contracts and agreements, and make surveys relating to the economic development of the state and, when appropriate, assemble, analyze, and disseminate the findings obtained;

(28) provide factual information and technical assistance for potential industrial and commercial investors;

(29) receive gifts, grants, and other aid that facilitate the powers and duties of the department from agencies and instrumentalities of the United States or other public or private sources;

(30) establish and activate programs to achieve balanced economic development in the state and advise the governor on economic development policy matters;

(31) formulate a continuing program for basic economic development and for the necessary promotion, planning and research that will advance the economic development of the state;

(32) cooperate with private, governmental, and other public institutions and agencies in the execution of economic development programs;

(33) review the programs and annual reports of other departments and agencies as they are related to economic development and prepare an annual report on the economic growth of the state;

(34) administer the economic development programs of the state;

(35) perform all other duties and powers necessary or proper in relation to economic development and planning for the state;

(36) request tourism-related businesses in the state to provide data regarding occupancy levels, traffic flow and gross receipts and to participate in visitor surveys conducted by the department; data collected under this paragraph that discloses the particulars of an individual business is not a matter of public record and shall be kept confidential; however, this restriction does not prevent the department from using the data to formulate tourism economic impact information including expenditure patterns, tax receipts and fees, employment and income attributable to tourism, and other information considered relevant to the planning, evaluation, and policy direction of tourism in the state;

(37) provide administrative and budgetary services to the Real Estate Commission under AS 08.88 as requested by the commission;

(38) sell at cost, to the extent possible, publications and promotional materials developed by the department;

(39) as delegated by the governor, administer under 16 U.S.C. 1856 the internal waters foreign processing permit procedures and collect related fees;

(40) administer state laws relating to the issuance of business licenses;

(41) comply with AS 15.07.055 to serve as a voter registration agency to the extent required by state and federal law, including 42 U.S.C. 1973gg (National Voter Registration Act of 1993);

(42) *[Repealed, E.O. No. 112 Sec. 3 (2004)]*.

(43) carry out other functions and duties, consistent with law, necessary or appropriate to accomplish the purpose of this chapter;

(44) administer the Alaska BIDCO assistance program under AS 37.17.500 - 37.17.690 and adopt regulations to carry out the provisions of those statutes.

(b) The department may adopt regulations necessary to carry out its statutory functions.