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Subject: The latest news for you
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To: d29@mtaonline.net



Senator

Rauscher's Report

Senate District O – Alaska at its Best!



**The 34th Alaska State Legislative Session
March 2026 Update**

**Sutton/ Valdez / Chickaloon / Eureka / Greater Farm Loop / Fishhook/
Sheep Mountain / Glacier View / Kings Lake / Anderson-Clear / Big Lake/
Cantwell/ Denali Park / East Schrock / Healy / Houston / Knik Goose Bay
No. 4 / Trapper Creek / Susitna / Talkeetna / Willow**

Today is the 53rd Day of the legislative session. Earlier this week, the Senate passed the Governor's supplemental (HB 289) with an amendment that passed on the Senate Floor. The new amended version of the supplemental stripped all the language in the previous bill and added match funds for the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities to fund the FY26 federal match requirement which puts much needed road projects back on the books for this summer. It also appropriates from the general fund to the disaster relief fund as well as the fire suppression fund. The amended supplemental passed by a vote of 20-0. This brings the initial \$530.8 million CBR draw down to roughly \$373.5 million.

After the supplemental passed the Senate, it was sent to the House for a concurrence vote. The House sent the supplemental to the House Rules Committee.

Read HB 289 here: [HB0289E](#)

Senate Transportation

Senate Transportation has heard presentations from the Foraker Group and the Alaska Municipal League on the impact of delayed payments to Alaska 's nonprofits. We also heard from the DOT on Advance Construction and Federalization which is a Federal Highway Administration tool that allows projects to advance before federal aid is formally obligated. This is

Administration tool that allows projects to advance before federal aid is formally obligated. This is important for projects in Alaska during times when transportation needs exceed federal funding and helps our State with our short construction seasons and high mobilization costs.

Senate Resources

Senate Resources has heard bills such as SB 253 Sulfur Content of Marine Fuel which would set a sulfur content limit for fuel used by large commercial marine vessels that operate in Alaska waters. We also heard SB 224, which is a Governor's bill, that would allow state lands that are deemed suitable for commercial development to go through a lease to sale program with a required public notice.

Over the past few weeks, I have received hundreds of emails from constituents and many other Alaskans regarding SB 161 which would end bottom trawling in state waters after a study on the effects of bottom trawling has been conducted. We also heard a new bill in Senate Resources today that was introduced by the Senate Resources Committee, SB 275, that many think would negatively impact the Alaska LNG project by expanding legislative oversight of AGDC and the project, adding a 9.4% tax on taxable income over \$5,000,000 and requiring the release of proprietary information.

Lastly, my bill SB 230 Jonesville PUA will be heard in Senate Resources on Monday, March 16th at 3:30 pm. You can send comments to the Senate Resources Committee to SenateResources@akleg.gov.

Read SB 161 here: [Microsoft Word - SB0161A.DOC](#)

Read SB 275 here: [SB0275A](#)

Read SB 253 here: [SB0253A](#)

Read SB 224 here: [SB0224A](#)

Read SB 230 here: [SB0230A](#)

This week in photos



This week, the House and Senate held a joint session to hear Congressman Begich's annual address where the Congressman stressed the importance of the Alaska LNG project and asked that lawmakers not become a roadblock in making the project happen.





This past weekend, I had the opportunity to attend the Official Restart of the Iditarod which kicked off in our district: Willow. I met with the mushers and wished them well as they prepared to embark on the nearly 1,000-mile journey of challenging terrain to Nome. I'd like to thank all the crews, volunteers, mushers, and their families who help make this event possible.

I'm wishing you all the best and will be cheering you on!

Keep up with the mushers here: [Current Race Standings – Iditarod](#)





I met with Col. Matt Johnston, Commander of Eielson AFB and Lt. Col. Zach Embers (USMC) of SOCOM in Juneau who gave me an update on their priorities and investments in infrastructure.

As always, my door is always open if you have any questions, concerns, or comments. If you want to set up a meeting, please contact my office at 907-465-4859 or send me an email to sen.george.rauscher@akleg.gov.

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