



In this issue:

- Greetings!
- Alaska Forest Association
- The Energy Council
- Summer Tour of Senate District R
- SEARHC Community Health Center Grand Opening in Hoonah
- Angoon and Ketchikan Cooperate for Public Safety
- 100th Anniversary of the Alaska Native Sisterhood
- Alaska Federation of Natives
- Training for Maritime Industry Upgrades
- Transboundary Mining
- Third Special Session
- Want to be a Senate Page?

Greetings to my friends and neighbors in Southeast Alaska:

It's been a very busy summer and fall since the Alaska State Legislature adjourned in June. In this newsletter I will highlight some of the issues my office is currently working on and many of the events I've attended as your Alaska State Senator. For more up-to-date information please remember to visit my website at www.bertstedman.com. As always, please contact my office if you need any assistance with the state government or if you would like to let me know what's on your mind. I value the opinions of the Alaskans I represent in the Alaska State Senate.



My wife Lureen and I with the First Lady Donna Walker at the Governor's Annual Picnic in mid-August in Juneau.

Alaska Forest Association

The Alaska Forest Association recently held their annual convention in Ketchikan and invited me to speak to those in attendance. I briefly touched on the state and federal level issues of concern for Southeast Alaska. Additionally, there were many informative sessions I was able to attend including an update on the Tongass National Forest from the newly appointed Forest Supervisor Earl Stewart. Having the privilege to attend meetings like this helps me hear directly from those in the timber industry about their challenges and concerns as well as their successes. I look forward to their spring meeting in Juneau, March 9 through 11, 2016.

The Energy Council

The Energy Council is an international organization of legislators from energy producing U.S. states and Canadian provinces. I have been associated with Energy Council for most of my tenure in the Alaska State Legislature. I have served on the council's executive committee and was elected to serve a term as the council's chairman. The council meets quarterly to keep members up-to-date on topics such as oil & gas, coal, renewables, pipeline safety, new markets, new technologies, and opening the Arctic to development.

Please take the opportunity to read about the other two meetings of the council have been held since my last newsletter was sent out. Read about the June meeting [here](#) and the September meeting [here](#).

A direct result of my leadership positions on The Energy Council led to the Secretary of Energy, Dr. Ernest Moniz, appointing me to the National Petroleum Council. The National Petroleum Council is a federally chartered and privately funded advisory committee established in 1946 at the request of President Harry S. Truman. The purpose of the National Petroleum Council is solely to advise, inform and make recommendations to the Secretary of Energy with respect to any matter relating to oil and natural gas, or to the oil and gas industries submitted to it or approved by the Secretary of Energy.

Summer Tour of Senate District R

As Senator of District "R", I understand how important it is to get out to visit the district in person and to hear directly from my constituents. Senate District R consists of 31 communities in an area that spans over millions of acres of land and water. My wife, Lureen, and I completed a nearly month-long trip by boat to many of the communities. Traveling by boat allowed me the opportunity to see critical infrastructure up close and to hear first-hand from constituents on our issues. Issues identified on Prince of Wales (POW) included the challenges of sparse cell phone coverage and internet service. In the case of a natural disaster emergency, all of POW needs to be able to be notified.



My wife Lureen and I in front of the Petersburg Drive Down Dock.

SEARHC Community Health Center Grand Opening in Hoonah

The SouthEast Alaska Regional Health Consortium had its grand opening and ribbon cutting for the Hoonah Community Health Center on July 30, 2015. There were over 100 people in attendance along with several community and tribal leaders who were there to assist in the blessing of the new building.

Angoon and Ketchikan Cooperate for Public Safety

Like most jobs being a legislator can be very rewarding and, at times, very challenging.

However, this is one of the rewarding aspects of the job. The City of Ketchikan sold its surplus fire truck to the City of Angoon, which badly needed a replacement. For a great example of collaboration between two communities in Southeast Alaska facilitated by my office read [this](#).



SouthEast Alaska Regional Health Consortium Hoonah Health Center's Grand Opening.

100th Anniversary of Alaska Native Sisterhood

I was honored to be invited to address the delegates of the Grand Camp Convention in Wrangell to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Alaska Native Sisterhood. The history and accomplishments of Alaska Native Sisterhood and Alaska Native Brotherhood are of great importance and vital to the history of Alaska. Alaska passed the first anti-discrimination law in the country with the help of the Alaska Native Sisterhood and Alaska Native Brotherhood as well as the late Elizabeth Peratrovich. Read about my visit to Wrangell [here](#).



ANB Grand Camp President Wes Morrison presenting Senator Stedman with a Raven Pendant for all of his work in the renovations throughout Southeast Alaska

Alaska Federation of Natives

Southeast Alaska was well represented at AFN and it was a pleasure to listen to renowned Haida artist Delores Churchill's keynote address. Read more about my AFN participation [here](#).

Training for Maritime Industry Upgrades & Developments

The University of Alaska Southeast (UAS) has been busy working to improve training options so Alaskans may have the opportunity to find employment in the maritime industry.

First they secured a \$6.6 million grant to renovate, improve, and expand maritime training facilities at the UAS-Ketchikan campus. Read about the grant [here](#).

Second, UAS approved and established an Associate Degree in Marine Transportation. More info can be found [here](#). For additional information, here is the [press release](#) from UAS announcing the new program.



Pictured above is the University of Alaska Southeast Ketchikan campus workshop which will be upgraded.

UAS is directly investing in Southeast Alaska's future. We are uniquely tied to the ocean and our economy will always be dependent on well-trained folks in the maritime industry.

Transboundary Mining

In late August at the invitation of Lt. Governor Byron Mallott, British Columbia Minister of Energy & Mines, William Bennett, made a 4-day visit and tour of Southeast Alaska. Mr. Bennett spent time in Juneau and Ketchikan and met with fisherman, state officials, municipal officials, tribal officials and folks from the tourism industry. My staff were able to attend many of the meetings and I think that Mr. Bennett's visit was a good start to begin a dialogue with our neighbors in British Columbia.

I'm very concerned about the transboundary mining issue and I know that my constituents are as well. And frankly, we have a right to be concerned because of the Mount Polley disaster and the leeching of the old Tulsequah Chief mine. The fact that we are dealing with a foreign government makes it that much more difficult because we must also engage both our federal governments as well. However, I would characterize Mr. Bennett's visit as progress and I will continue to work with the Lt. Governor's office and other legislators from Southeast Alaska.

Third Special Session Ends with Strengthening Alaska's Position In The Gasline

The third special session recently ended with the Alaska State Legislature approving Governor Bill Walker's bill to buy back Alaska's ownership share from TransCanada. I voted in support of buying out TransCanada's share in the project because Alaska will acquire more authority in the project and significantly more revenue once it starts producing gas. The buyout gives the State of Alaska a full 25% interest in the project, just like the other three partners: Conoco Phillips, BP, and ExxonMobil.

There is tremendous value in becoming an equal partner. First, it gives Alaska equal voting rights to negotiate and decide key issues for the project such as budgets, schedules, pipeline size, and selling gas. Also, the state will now own a full 25% in every part of the project, from the North Slope conditioning plant, to the pipeline, and the liquefaction plant. Second, the buyout means an increase of as much as \$400 million a year in additional annual revenue to the State of Alaska from the gasline.



Senator Stedman pictured here with Senator Click Bishop during the Third Special Session.

I not only supported the cash buyout of TransCanada, I supported tapping savings to fund our portion of the project. We have the ability to pay cash. There is no need to borrow to pay the cost of the buyout and pay interest for years. In the end, Alaska's position is much stronger, we eliminate the obligation to use TransCanada like a bank and pay interest for work that has to be done no matter what, and we will receive a much larger return once the project starts producing gas for sale. This is simply the best thing to do for the project as well as for the state.

Want to be a Senate Page?

The Alaska State Senate is looking for individuals who are interested and available to work as a Legislative Page for the up-coming legislative session. Legislative Page positions are employed from just prior to the beginning of the legislative session to a few days after adjournment. The 2016 legislative session will begin Tuesday, January 19, and continue through April 18. The starting salary for a page position is \$3,197.00 per month. All monthly paid employees receive full medical, retirement, and leave benefits. Salaried employees do not receive compensatory time or overtime and are on call seven days per week. Housing accommodations are not provided and each employee must secure his or her own accommodations.

All Legislative Pages must be at least 21 years of age and possess a valid driver's license.

Legislative Pages are hired by the Rules Committees of each Chamber and serve under the supervision of their respective Sergeant-At-Arms. They are on call in the Chamber each day of the legislative session to provide services and support to legislative members, including:

1. Acting as doormen of the Chambers.
2. Remaining on call in the Chambers during session.
3. Relaying messages, letters, and documents to and from legislators, legislative offices, and agencies.
4. Setting up committee rooms for legislative meetings.
5. Maintaining the bills, journals, and other documents used in the Chambers.
6. Driving the legislative vans as requested.

If you live in Senate District R and are interested in becoming a Senate Page, email your resume and Department of Motor Vehicles driving record to my office at Sen.Bert.Stedman@akleg.gov or mail it to the address below. I will forward all qualified applicants to the Senate Rules Committee for the final hiring decisions. The deadline for submitting an application is December 11, 2015.

Interim Contact Information:

Office of Senator Bert Stedman
State Capitol, Room 30
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
(907) 465-3873 / (877) 463-3873
Fax: (907) 465-3922
Web: www.bertstedman.com
Email: Sen. Bert.Stedman@akleg.gov



Happy Holidays

I'd like to take this opportunity to wish you and yours a very special and safe Holiday Season!