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Governor Bill Walker
STATE OF ALASKA

February 11, 2015

The Honorable Senator Dennis Egan
Alaska State Senate
State Capitol, Room 417
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

The Honorable Representative Cathy Muñoz
Alaska State House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 501
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

The Honorable Representative Sam Kito III
Alaska State House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 422
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Senator Egan and Representatives Muñoz and Kito:

I am in receipt of your letter, dated January 30, 2015 expressing your concerns and sharing suggestions regarding the number of commissioners who will reside in Juneau. I agree that the task of governing in the coming years will demand the best from each of us, and I feel strongly that we need to do what we can to have the best and brightest Alaskans working with us.

My preference is that commissioners reside in Juneau when possible; however, I am proud of the team that we have assembled and find it reasonable to consider compromises as they evaluate their personal family circumstances. Thus far, three department heads have agreed to live in Juneau year-round and several others will be in Juneau for the duration of session. Further, three department heads are seriously exploring their options regarding a permanent move to Juneau. They must heavily weigh how the decisions will affect their families and find sufficient housing, in addition to many other factors.

The First Lady and I have moved to Juneau and will make the Governor's House our permanent residence for the duration of my term, as have numerous of our senior staff. Furthermore, I am committed to keeping the capital in Juneau, and I continue to stand by that position. Please know that my Administration looks forward to every opportunity to work with you to support the community of Juneau and do what's best for all Alaskans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill Walker".

Bill Walker
Governor

cc: Darwin Peterson, Legislative Director, Office of the Governor