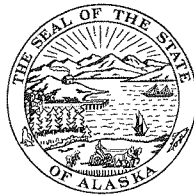


# Alaska State Legislature

Juneau Delegation  
Senator Dennis Egan  
Representative Cathy Muñoz  
Representative Sam Kito III



State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska  
99801-1182

January 30, 2015

The Honorable William Walker  
Governor of Alaska  
P.O. Box 110001  
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Governor Walker:

We are writing to express our concern that, at the time of writing, only two of the 14 State Agency Commissioners have committed to living in the capital city. With all of the state agencies, the Governor, and the Lt. Governor headquartered in Juneau, it only makes sense that the department heads also be located in Juneau. The role of a capital is to bring key leaders together face-to-face to discuss, negotiate, and govern as efficiently and effectively as possible. With that in mind, we advocate that your Commissioners live in Juneau.

Our state government functions best when high-level decision makers reside and conduct the bulk of their duties in the capital city. Commissioners who are removed from activities in the capital risk weakening the management of, and political support for, our state agencies. Commissioners and key staff must be available to you on short notice during departmental discussions and the legislative budget process. While today's telecommunications permit the virtually instant transmission of information, face-to-face dialogue enables a more robust exchange of ideas and, ultimately, a more considered, better coordinated outcome. Given the State's recent budget shortfalls, the task of governing in the coming years will demand the best from each of us.

Allowing agency leadership to conduct business from outside the capital city also raises concerns over capital creep. The slow migration of state jobs away from the capital city is always a concern to us. With Commissioners across the state, we are concerned that key department leadership positions may end up outside of Juneau as well. Please advise those Commissioners who do choose to live away from the capital that key department leadership positions will not be allowed to follow them.

Commissioners working outside the capital undermine the legislative and executive branches' ability to effectively coordinate and govern. This undermines Juneau's role as Alaska's capital city. We appreciate your support for keeping Juneau as Alaska's capital city, and ask you to continue to stand by your position by strongly encouraging your Commissioners to display the same commitment to making Juneau the best capital for Alaska.

Sincerely,

A stylized, handwritten signature of Senator Dennis Egan.

Senator Dennis Egan  
Senate District Q

A handwritten signature of Representative Cathy Muñoz.

Rep. Cathy Muñoz  
House District 34

A handwritten signature of Representative Sam Kito III.

Rep. Sam Kito III  
House District 33