

Legislative Report



Your Representative
DeLena Johnson

DISTRICT 11 - GREATER PALMER



Rep. Johnson voting for your \$2,700 Permanent Fund Dividend Check

WHY I VOTED YES

When it comes to choosing to vote Yea or Nay on a bill, I have a lot to consider as your representative. Some bills are cut & dried, but others may benefit some in our district while causing difficulties for others. I have received a lot of comment on two such bill, so let's talk about these yes votes.

I voted YES on HB285, the mental health bill, to provide full funding for our Alaska Pioneer Homes. With HB286 having passed the House, roughly \$16 million in Pioneer Home funding remained attached to the mental health bill. Without it, the Pioneer Homes fall short of full funding by 24%. I made a commitment to our seniors to support full funding for these facilities and I am happy to have upheld my pledge.

I voted Yes for a \$2,700 PFD for every qualified Alaskan. I have

been asked by some why I would vote for this when I have called for a reduced budget. Simply put, our PFD should not be considered part of the operating budget, and was not until the present administration changed it. By statute, 50% of the earnings of the Permanent Fund are to be distributed to the people of Alaska as a PFD. These funds should be appropriated and off the table. We must continue to have real opportunities to cut spending in a multitude of areas that will not have 'draconian' results. These cuts, and the elimination of further waste can, and will produce a realistic budget, while continuing to afford full PFD checks.

Rep. Johnson sits on the following:
HOUSE COMMITTEES

- ✓ Resources
- ✓ State Affairs
- ✓ Energy



Rep. Johnson discussing HB366 at a March town hall meeting.



Rep. Johnson with Mat Su Regional Hospital CEO, Dave Wallace



PAYING OUR TAX CREDITS

My first choice would be to pay our oil tax credit obligation outright, but the present fiscal situation makes that difficult. As such, I strongly support House Bill 331, creating the Alaska Tax Credit Certificate Bond Corporation. I am behind this legislation because the State needs to pay its bills like the rest of us.

This bill creates a new state bond corporation empowered to issue up to \$1 billion with which to repurchase oil & gas tax credits. The bill also allows for interim payments to oil & gas explorers and producers while they await tax credit repayment, so they can continue to provide good paying jobs for Alaskans.

The bill creates a great amount of flexibility in dealing with the reality that these tax credits must be paid. In the absence of the financial flexibility created by this bill, the State could be in the position to have to pay \$900 million all at once, which would have to come from the Permanent Fund Earnings Account, further depleting Alaska's savings.

The bill promotes new petroleum exploration via stimulus from higher bond rates, and helps industry to create and maintain jobs in the interim between now and credit(s) retirement, and it includes good protections including bond refund caps, and the establishment of a standing \$200 million reserve.

The fact is the State owes the oil industry \$900 million in tax credits and this legislation establishes the best way to pay the bill.

I believe, as a legislator, I must act responsibly to continue to attract investment to our state, and to protect our Permanent Fund.

House Bill 331 helps accomplish these goals.

MY LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

1. Repeal SB91
2. Pass a Sustainable Budget
3. Increase Public Safety Funding
4. Full Funding for our Pioneer Homes
5. Good in-home care for our seniors

MY BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

1. HB366- In-Home Senior Care
2. HB241 – No Budget = No Per Diem
3. HB311- SB91 Repeal
4. HB208 – Trust Reform
5. HJR15 – Oppose Federal ID Requirements
6. HCR6 – 90 Day Budget

I serve you, the citizens of District 11. I want to hear your voices & opinions so I can best represent you in Juneau. Let yourselves be heard!



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Representative DeLena Johnson



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