



MATANUSKA-SUSITNA DELEGATION 31ST ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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MAT-SU DELEGATION: MOVING SPECIAL SESSION FROM WASILLA TO JUNEAU IS VIOLATION OF LAW

June 24, 2019 (WASILLA)

The Mat-Su Delegation asserts that the presiding officers' decision to move the location of the special session from Wasilla to Juneau is in clear violation of the law.

Co-Chair of the delegation, Senator Shelley Hughes (Palmer/Chugiak) stated, "I find it fascinating that legislative leaders would rather visit a courtroom than visit the Mat-Su."

Because five months of efforts on the PFD issue in Juneau failed, the delegation firmly believes that Alaskans should have the opportunity for an in-person voice in Mat-Su. Attempts to deny affordable access to more than a half million Alaskans comes with great risk of litigation.

The work to provide that access has been in full gear. "Wasilla is a friendly community that's been busy in recent weeks preparing to welcome the legislature. An unlawful attempt to subvert the legally determined location is beyond troubling," added Co-Chair Representative Colleen Sullivan-Leonard.

The Constitution requires a 2/3 agreement (40 votes) in a poll of the joint House and Senate for the legislature to call itself back into a special session, and statutes require that same poll to determine the location. The presiding officers had only 39 votes to call the legislature into its own special session in Juneau. The statutes clearly state that when the governor issues the call for a special session, the governor determines the location.

Senator Hughes concluded, "On behalf of the Mat-Su Delegation, my co-chair and I welcome the Alaska State Legislature to Wasilla on July 8, 2019."

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