

Alaska State Legislature

Out of Session:

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**In Session:**

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Senator Donald C. Olson

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DISTRICT T

December 31, 2019

The Honorable Michael J. Dunleavy
Governor of Alaska
Alaska State Capitol, Third Floor
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Governor Dunleavy,

Earlier this month, Commissioner Kelly Tshibaka announced the State of Alaska is pursuing \$60,000 worth of donations from residents to fund a rural outreach program to ensure rural Alaskans have an opportunity to obtain a REAL ID. As you are aware, I represent the largest state senate district in the United States. We have hundreds of villages and small communities with little or no access to transportation hubs. Rural Alaska already is at a disadvantage for travel. The state should do everything in its means to reach out to every rural Alaskan if it intends to have Alaskans in compliance by October 1, 2020.

Your relationship with President Donald Trump has been a focal point in the Alaska media. I implore you to use that close relationship that you have with the President to encourage him to delay the implementation of REAL ID and fund necessary outreach strategies until the State can connect with every Alaskan. It is the responsibility of the President and your position as Governor of Alaska to implement this unwanted federal mandate properly so Alaskans' rights to travel are not infringed upon.

If appropriate outreach measures are not in place by October 1, 2020, rural Alaskans will be at a further disadvantage to travel for medically necessary appointments, access to basic necessities, and connections with family.

I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donny Olson".

Senator Donny Olson

Alakanuk
Alatna
Allakaket
Ambler
Anaktuvuk Pass
Atkasuk
Barrow
Bettles
Brevig Mission
Buckland
Chevak
Coldfoot
Council
Deering
Diomedea
Elim
Emmonak
Evansville
Galena
Gambell
Golovin
Hooper Bay
Hughes
Huslia
Kaktovik
Kaltag
Kiana
King Island
Kivalina
Kobuk
Kotlik
Kotzebue
Koyuk
Koyukuk
Mountain Village
Noatak
Nome
Noorvik
Nuiqsut
Nufato
Nunam Iqua
Pilot Station
Pitkas Point
Point Hope
Point Lay
Ruby
St. Mary's
St. Michael
Savoonga
Scammon Bay
Selawik
Shaktolik
Shishmaref
Shungnak
Solomon
Stebbins
Teller
Unalakleet
Wainwright
Wales
White Mountain
Wiseman