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**For Immediate Release: March 21, 2025**

Good afternoon,

*It's the beginning of spring and the sixtieth day of this Legislature. This week the Senate Finance Committee heard the following presentations, Governor's amendments from the Office of Management and Budget, Deferred maintenance from the University of Alaska, and a three-year budget outlook from our Legislative Finance Division. In addition, the committee heard and held public testimony on SB 31: Address Confidentiality Program and SB 39: Loans Under \$25,000 – Payday Loans.*

*This week, the House and the Senate met in a joint session three times. On Tuesday, US Senator Lisa Murkowski gave her annual address to the Legislature. With all that is happening in DC, she is happy to be home. On Wednesday, we met in joint session for Senate Special Concurrence Resolution 1: Disapprove EO 136. The resolution passed with a vote of 32/Y to 28/N. Executive Order 136 would have created the Department of Agriculture. Some Legislators support the concept, but not by Executive Order. They want a bill submitted to fully vet the proposal. So, HB 140/SB 128: Create the Department of Agriculture have been submitted. And finally, on Thursday, we met in joint session to hear the annual address to the Legislature from US Senator Dan Sullivan.*

*The Senate met and approved SB 50: Municipal Comprehensive Plans Housing. This bill amends AS 29.40.030 (a) to add housing plan as one of the elements that may be included in a comprehensive plan of first-second class boroughs. This bill will prompt boroughs to give specific attention to their housing needs and examination of their housing policies.*

*Happy spring and good luck to your March madness teams!*

**Tribal Library**

The Alaska Federation of Natives recently held a webinar on how to create and fund a Tribal Library and Tribal Library Computer Center. The Federal Communications Commission revised its rules to allow Tribes and Alaska Native Corporations to obtain funding from the Universal Services Fund to pay up to 90 percent of the monthly broadband costs. Eligible entities can receive up to \$50,000 for broadband equipment. The Institute of Museum and Library Services, also provides up to \$150,000 a year in grant funding to assist libraries.

You can watch the informational webinar on AFN's website. Go to [afninfo@nativefederation.org](mailto:afninfo@nativefederation.org).

Senators Olson, Hoffman, and Claman (left to right) listening to Senator Sullivan deliver his Joint address to the legislature on Thursday March 20th.



**Review Your PFD Status**

**PFD Deadline to apply is**

**March 31, 2025**

**CLICK HERE**