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Governor Bill Walker
STATE OF ALASKA

October 9, 2015

The Honorable Mike Chenault
Speaker of the House
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 208
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Speaker Chenault:

I was disappointed to read your October 3rd commentary in the Alaska Dispatch News. You claim that I am not communicating with you or your colleagues about the upcoming special session. I reject your assumption that I have not been forthcoming about my intentions.

Since taking office, I have personally met with you at least 24 times. The majority of these meetings were at my request, and they were for the purpose of discussing the AKLNG project. I have been as forthright and transparent with you as possible. The most recent meeting I had with you was on September 21st, which included four of your legislative colleagues and staff. The entire conversation was dedicated to the gasoline special session. In that meeting, I made it very clear that my administration is working on items for the special session call that will provide gasoline project completion certainty for the State. At that meeting I explained that while SB138 anticipated Alaska providing fiscal certainty to the producers, my concern is that Alaska must have project certainty (which it presently does not have). I explained that I was working on project certainty for Alaska and had hoped the Project Withdrawal Provision in the fiscal terms would have been completed by then. When it wasn't, it was necessary, for Alaska's protection, that I bring forth something that ensured Alaska's gas would actually go into a project. It would have been premature for me to propose a bill to monetize Alaska's natural gas reserves as my chosen means to ensure project certainty, since the details of that proposal were still being negotiated with the producers.

On September 24th, three days after our last meeting, I issued a proclamation for the third special session of the 29th Legislature. A copy of that proclamation as well as a video message from me was sent to all legislators. Earlier that same day, my office sent all legislators a report on my review of the AKLNG project process. In that report, I explained in detail the flaws in the AKLNG process which I intend to address. Finally, on September 30th, my office sent all legislators the Black and Veatch 40 plus page report on TransCanada's participation in AKLNG. So as you can see, I am not withholding any information from the Legislature. In fact, I am doing just the opposite. I have been and will continue distributing information to the Legislature as it becomes available. With respect to the bills on the special session call, they are still being finalized by the Department of Law in

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consultation with affected agencies. As soon as they are ready, they will be provided to you and your colleagues in the Legislature. These bills will be transmitted to you before the special session convenes on October 24th.

Like you, I respect the separation of powers inherent in our Constitution. I do not receive, nor do I expect, regular briefings from you or your staff in regard to legislative initiatives you are considering.

It is incumbent upon me as the Governor of this great state to continue the faithful execution of my duties. I will continue to consult with you in a manner required by State law and our Constitution and at your request. I hold in high regard the open line of communication I enjoy with most legislators, including many of the members of your caucus. I am always willing to pick up the phone or sit down with you or any legislator who wishes to speak with me. In fact, I have never denied a meeting with any legislator who has asked to meet with me. All of us who share the public trust need to work together in a cooperative manner to successfully navigate our state through the difficult, but certainly not insurmountable, challenges we face. Alaskans deserve better from their elected officials, and I respectfully ask you to join me in restoring a more productive level of discourse in our political deliberations.

Sincerely,



Bill Walker

Governor

cc: Alaska State Legislature