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Legislature to Hit the Ground Running for Special Session Senate, House committees scheduled to meet on day one

Thursday, October 21, 2015, Juneau, Alaska – Leadership in the Alaska House and Senate will release committee schedules today in anticipation of the start of the upcoming special legislative session on advancing a natural gas pipeline.

On Thursday, September 24, Governor Bill Walker called the Legislature into a special session to consider two major items related to a natural gas pipeline: the purchase of TransCanada's share of the AKLNG project, which would give the state 25 percent control over the project, and a gas reserves tax intended to pressure lease holders by imposing a tax on unproduced gas.

The House and Senate Resources Committees will meet on Saturday, October 24 to consider a gas reserves tax proposal by the Walker Administration. As of Thursday, October 21, legislation has not been presented to the Legislature for review. The House and Senate Finance Committees will meet to consider the TransCanada buyout and what is ultimately a \$7 billion decision for the State of Alaska.

"The Legislature is looking forward to delving into the details of these critical measures," Senate President Kevin Meyer, R-Anchorage, said. "Unfortunately, we have lost some time to prepare and work on these issues because of the delay in receiving the bills, but nonetheless, we are ready to tackle these issues and move a gas line project that is in the best interest of Alaskans. We will have to make up for that, but we will get there by hitting the ground running with the Resources and Finance Committees meeting as soon as we gavel in."

"We appreciate the governor's willingness to hold a briefing for the entire Legislature," House Speaker Mike Chenault, R-Nikiski, said. "We've already lost valuable time by not having an opportunity to review the legislation prior to special session, and we feel we can accomplish more by working through the legislative process and have committees start on day one. It is our intention to hold committee meetings daily until the job is done."

Both the House and Senate will gavel in for the third special session of the 29th Alaska Legislature at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, October 24.

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