



# *Alaskans Working For Alaska!*

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2601 Denali Street, Anchorage, Alaska 99503 • Phone (907)277-5200 • Fax (907)277-5206  
E-mail: [aseahq@afscmelocal52.org](mailto:aseahq@afscmelocal52.org) • Website: [www.afscmelocal52.org](http://www.afscmelocal52.org)

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December 22, 2014

The Honorable Bill Walker  
Governor of Alaska  
P.O. Box 110001  
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

Re: Request to hold space management standards construction in abeyance

Dear Governor Walker:

I am sure you are aware that the Parnell Administration was undertaking major office and space reorganization in many State offices. ASEA/AFSCME Local 52 has serious concerns about the approach used by the Parnell Administration, the negative impact on many of our members and the immediate cost to the State for the space reorganization project.

The Parnell Administration estimated that the initial cost of this project would be between forty (40) to seventy-eight (78) million dollars. They justified moving forward on the project despite this upfront cost by projecting that the reduced space needs should result in a yearly savings in lease costs and that in twenty (20) years the total project cost could be recovered. Yet in 2013, the Parnell Administration adjusted rental rates for eight State leases involving space standards construction by doubling the annual rental at a projected additional cost to the state of \$52 million over the next ten years. Therefore, recovery of these costs clearly is neither anticipated nor likely.

ASEA/AFSCME Local 52 requested negotiation on the space management standards and changes in working conditions imposed by the prior administration. This request was denied by the Parnell Administration. We then filed an Unfair Labor Practice (ULP) with the Alaska Labor Relations Agency (ALRA) seeking an order directing the State to bargain with the Union over the impact of these new changes in working conditions. ALRA has scheduled a hearing on the ULP for February 18-20, 2015.

State advocates for the Division of Labor Relations have asked the Union to join with them and request ALRA postpone the hearing until your position on continuing this Parnell policy is known. Even though the Division of Labor Relations has asked us to agree to the postponement, we are aware that the State Department of Administration is continuing the project including the scheduling of construction in new office locations. The Union is willing to agree to a continuance so that your

The Honorable Bill Walker  
December 22, 2014  
Page 2

office can evaluate the program and its associated costs; however, we are told that the State will proceed with construction, including starting new construction unless directed to stop by you or the Acting Commissioner of Administration.

Therefore, I request that you direct the Acting Commissioner of Administration to notify any contractor who has not physically begun renovations to stop all construction activities and hold everything in abeyance until your office has had the opportunity to fully review the cost of the project and clearly identify the benefit to moving forward with the Parnell Administration's space management standards program.

Thank you for considering this request. We are hopeful that amicable resolution of the space management program can be accomplished.

Sincerely,



Jim Duncan  
Executive Director  
ASEA/AFSCME Local 52

cc: Amy Erickson, Acting Commissioner of Administration  
Kate Sheehan, Director of Personnel and Labor Relations.

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