

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION

ANNETTE KREITZER, COMMISSIONER

SARAH PALIN, GOVERNOR

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September 5, 2007

Mr. Jim Duncan, Business Manager
Alaska State Employees Association
1577 C Street, Ste. 201
Anchorage, AK 99501

Sent via email

Dear Mr. Duncan:

You have expressed concern about Administrative Order No. 237 and its potential impact on union contracts which have already been signed or, in your union's case, are set for a ratification vote.

To be clear, the Executive Branch Working Group established by the A.O. will make recommendations to Governor Palin on ways to address the State's recruitment and retention issues. If Governor Palin accepts some or all of the recommendations, then my position would be to work with the unions with the affected employees to implement the recommendations.


The Working Group will be looking at the State's workforce statewide, not at any particular union's members. My approach is to look at where we have recruitment difficulties in certain job classes and the reasons for those recruitment issues – including how the State is doing the recruiting.

Should the Working Group recommend and Governor Palin endorse a change which would impact the monetary terms in the contract soon to be before your members, I commit to you that we would seek to amend the contract to include any such change that affects your members.

National trends indicate that more employers will be leaving the workforce than entering. My charge is to ensure that the State is ready for the challenges that come with a smaller workforce, and that the State is a competitive employer.

I appreciate the opportunity to clarify my intent and my desire that we can continue to work together to provide good working conditions and a professional atmosphere for State employees.

Sincerely,



Annette Kreitzer
Commissioner