

Ray,

I am aware that you have sent an E-mail to ASEA members regarding a personal letter I sent to the Alaska Democratic Party.

I note that the only member of the ASEA Executive Board that you show as a cc is Karen Zubillaga. Therefore, I am copying all members of the ASEA Executive Board on this reply so they will be fully informed. I have included them as bcc so you will not have access to their e-mail addresses that are not a State of Alaska e-mail address.

Let me say I am somewhat surprised that an individual who is "anti-corruption" would knowingly send a political message with your campaign poster attached to a State e-mail address. That is a prohibited use of State equipment and is a violation on your part. State employees are not to receive or send partisan political messages on State equipment. I thought you would have known better. For that reason my response is not going to their State e-mail address.

I am also surprised that you feel strongly your freedom of speech should be acknowledged by the Alaska Democratic Party but you disagree that I should have freedom of speech to give my own personal view. Please note that my e-mail came from my home e-mail address, gave my home mailing address and phone number, and my letter had no reference to the Union I work for or the current position I hold. I was not speaking for or on behalf of ASEA but only exercising my right to freedom of speech that every individual citizen in Alaska should have.

As normal you only tell part of the story and from your viewpoint when you discuss your request for me to provide ASEA support and funds in your campaign against then Senate President Ben Stevens. When you called for support for your campaign from ASEA I did decline. I indicated to you that even though I personally may have difficulty with Senator Ben Stevens and wished you well, that I could not commit nor recommend to our Union that ASEA become involved at any level at that time in your campaign against Ben Stevens. The reason was clearly explained to you; The Senate President had control over a number of issues that affected our members including funding of our contract, amendments to the collective bargaining act, attacks on our retirement system, and many others. I explained to you that my first responsibility was to our membership and I would not and could not do anything that would work against the ASEA membership. I note that the only Unions who you list as supporting you were Unions who do not represent State employees. All Unions who represent State employees did not get involved and I would suspect for the same reason I did not.

Have a good day.

Jim