

# ALASKA AFL-CIO

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Executive President



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On behalf of the Alaska AFL-CIO and its state public employee affiliated local unions, we offer the following:

We greatly appreciate the recent disciplined decision made by the legislature to include the funding of the various state employee negotiated agreements to stand. We understand the legislature has the authority to appropriate funding and we acknowledge the difficulty lawmakers face when looking at increases in a time of billion dollar deficits. Thank you for working with us.

By keeping the contracts intact, our membership can get back to the business of focusing on their work, and the legislature can continue to focus on leading Alaska through these difficult times.

Unions and lawmakers have one very important goal in common; to fix things to help make a better Alaska. This display of statesmanship on the part of the legislature will be remembered by all of us when various contracts expire and need to be renegotiated. Some of these negotiations are currently in progress, while others will take place shortly. Our various organizations, made up of a cross section of Alaskans, are ready to do our part to help put Alaska on firm fiscal footing.

We appreciate the magnitude of the budget shortfall the state faces and believe we all have to pull together in order to get through this rough patch.

While many Alaskans, including our members, have been concerned with the protracted budget discussions in the legislature, we cannot ignore the fact that our elected officials face an enormous task that few before have seen. We value the fact that they have been working diligently in trying to find solutions to the budget issues and are grateful for the discussions we have had with them. We are confident that these efforts will result in an Alaska that is fiscally sound and will spur economic growth.

Again, to our membership, thank you for your patience, and to our legislators, thank you for putting Alaska first during these difficult times.

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