

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Senator Johnny Ellis, Chair

•
Senator Joe Paskvan

•
Senator Tom Wagoner



While in Session
State Capitol, Rm. 103
Juneau, AK 99801
(907) 465-3704
Fax: (907) 465-2529

•
While in Anchorage
716 W. 4th Ave, Ste. 440
Anchorage, AK 99501
(907) 269-0169
Fax: (907) 269-0172

SENATE FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

FISCAL YEAR 2010 SENATE BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

March 16th, 2009

The Senate Finance Subcommittee on the Department of Environmental Conservation submits an operating report to the full Senate Finance Committee for Fiscal Year 2010 as follows:

Fund Source:

	FY09 Management Plan	FY10 Governor's Amended Adjusted Base	FY 10 Senate Subcommittee	Difference (Governor to Senate Sub)
General Funds	18,891.4	19,140.5	19,144.2	3.7 (0.0%)
Federal Funds	21,396.8	21,497.6	21,497.6	0 (0%)
Other Funds	33,086.8	33,496.9	33,516.9	20.0 (0.0%)
Total	73,375.0	74,135.0	74,158.7	23.7 (0.0%)

Personnel:

The Subcommittee reviewed the authorized position count for the Department. The Governor's amended budget proposal requested one new position. The Subcommittee is recommending three new positions.

Position Summary	FY09 Authorized	FY10 Governor's Amended Adjusted Base	FY 10 Senate Subcommittee
Permanent Full Time	529	532	534
Permanent Part Time	1	1	1
Temporary	4	5	5
Total	534	538	540

Budget Action:

The Subcommittee held three meetings with the Department and took the following actions:

1. Adopted the Fiscal Year 2009 Adjusted Base.
2. Reviewed each of the increments (2) and decrements (2) submitted by the Governor. Recommends the adoption of the Governor's proposal with the following exceptions:
 - a. Deny Inc 184.0 GF "Climate Change Sub-Cabinet Activity" to the Air Quality allocation of the Environmental Health Appropriation.
 - b. Adopt Inc 187.7 GF "Add Two New Environmental Health Officer Positions and Related Costs for Food Safety Inspections" to the Food Safety and Sanitation allocation of the Environmental Health appropriation.
 - c. Adopt Inc 20.0 Cruise Ship "Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning Testing" to the Laboratory Services allocation of the Environmental Health appropriation.

Amendment Action:

1. The Governor did not submit operating budget amendments for DEC.

Items of Concern:

1. The Subcommittee had considerable discussion regarding the deficiency of the food safety inspection program and the disparity between the Department's funding level and the expectations of the public at large. Even with the addition of two food safety inspectors and related costs included in the Subcommittee's recommendation, the Department expects it will be able to inspect just under 40% of permitted food service establishments and processors in FY10, up from 35% in FY09. The federal Food and Drug Administrations Model Food Code recommends a minimum of one to three inspections each year. This serious shortfall threatens the health and safety of people across the state, but is felt strongest in rural areas, where costs drive inspection rates even lower than the statewide average.
2. The growth of the wild and farmed shellfish industry in Southeast and Southcentral Alaska threatens to outstrip the ability of the Department to provide testing, which is necessary to advance the permitting process that is vital to the continued health of this profitable and sustainable fishery. With the recommended increment, the Department will be able to expand testing to support new and expanded harvests.

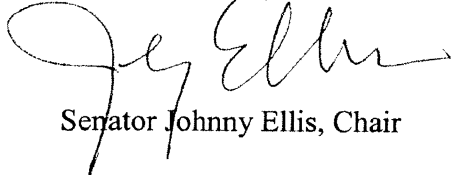
Documents Attached:

Reports from the Division of Legislative Finance:


1. Appropriation/Allocation Summary – Senate Structure
2. Appropriation/Allocation Summary (GF Only) – Senate Structure

3. Transaction Comparison – Senate Structure (Between Adjusted Base and Senate Subcommittee
4. Transaction Comparison – Senate Structure (Between Governor’s Amend Adj. and Sen. Sub.)
5. Transaction Comparison – Senate Structure (Between House and Senate Subcommittees)
6. Wordage Report – FY2010 Operating Budget, Senate Structure
7. Agency Totals – FY2010 Operating Budget, Senate Structure

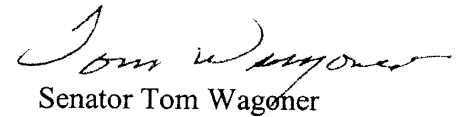
Respectfully Submitted,



Senator Johnny Ellis, Chair



Senator Joe Paskvan



Senator Tom Wagøner

Senate Finance Subcommittee on the Department of Environmental Conservation