

Good Afternoon Senator Wilson,

As your neighbor to the north, I'd like to share our perspective regarding the State's Emergency Declaration. The Denali Borough has worked closely with DHSS, the Division of Public Nursing, and the State's Unified Command to help guide and develop our local response. I applaud the diligent work of the Department to keep Alaska one of the healthiest of all the states. We have stood up a robust COVID testing program and are helping coordinate vaccine delivery. We rely on the Unified Command to fulfill resource requests. Our upcoming visitor season will benefit from non-infected visitors entering the state.

This is not a time to consider this battle "over" and let the state's authorities to respond accordingly lapse. I understand timelines are tight and there may be an upcoming period of an absence of a declaration. By reducing the state's ability to respond to the pandemic, additional demand is placed upon local governments.

The Denali Borough Assembly is considering extending our Emergency Declaration, which is rather narrowly crafted. It approves necessary expenditures with a focus on being eligible for federal funding reimbursements and it authorizes virtual public meetings.

Please do consider the benefits of extending the Emergency Declaration to the state's response as well as local government response and work with your fellow legislators to ensure we can properly respond to this ongoing pandemic.

Thank you and thank you for your service.

Regards,
Clay

Clay Walker

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