

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



REPRESENTATIVE LES GARA

July 25, 2003

The Honorable Pete Kott
Speaker of the House
716 West 4th Avenue, Ste. 600
Anchorage, AK 99501-2133

The Honorable Gene Therriault
President of the Senate
3340 Badger Road, Ste. 290
North Pole, AK 99705

Dear Pete and Gene:

I recognize that we appear to disagree on the need to fund Alaska's Longevity Bonus, and I respect that. As you know from legislative debate and the editorials I've written, I believe strongly that the Longevity Bonus should be continued, and that continuation of the Bonus is a promise we made to our seniors the last time it was cut in 1993. I also certainly recognize you can make good faith arguments in support of your positions.

It is my view that the public has a right to know the views of their legislators on the Longevity Bonus. Specifically, I believe they are entitled to know which legislators agree that the Governor's veto should be overridden in special session, and which have not agreed to override the veto. Statements in the media indicate that your offices will not release that information. I apologize in advance if the media statements are not accurate.

By this letter, I request release of the results of the statutory poll each of you has conducted among legislators on this question. Specifically, I would like the names of those members who have agreed to a special session to override the Governor's Longevity Bonus veto, and those who have declined to support a special session to override the veto. As our House and Senate minority leaders are out of town this week, you should feel free to call me if I can be of any help. At this point the only information I have from the media is that Speaker Kott's office has informed them 3 of the Legislature's 40 Republicans have joined the 20 Democrats in calling for a special session.

Best Regards,

Les Gara