

REP. CARL GATTO - DISTRICT 13 - SESSION NEWS

We are down to the wire with less than two weeks to go. The background is Rep. Stoltze and I meeting with Academy Charter School Students, Parents and Teachers. *Carl*

- ✓ **WHAT DOES ARCTIC POWER DO WITH \$10 MILLION IN STATE FUNDING?**
Some of you may have seen my comments on the \$94,500 in state funds that DOT had earmarked to pay for Juneau's new capitol debacle. That money was returned thanks to widespread public opposition to state funding for a new capitol in Juneau. This time the target is larger. Arctic Power recently received approval for \$1.3 million in funds to lobby for opening ANWR. To date, I am unaware of any progress they have made with the more than \$10 million in state funds they have received. They do pay \$10,000 a month to their lobbyist, \$9,350 a month to his assistant, and over \$300,000 a year to run an Anchorage office. The public deserves to know how this money is being spent before they receive more.

✓ **EDUCATION NEWS:**

HB 13, which I sponsored, is currently in committee. In the Finance Committee the Co-Chair from Kenai attached a provision known as the School District Cost Study. If implemented, this study will change funding so that Mat-Su would receive \$3 million less a year. A second provision would add \$90 million to the cost of HB 13. This \$90 million would restore the \$3 million to Mat-Su for a few years only, then we would lose it and more. I'm working to undo these extra provisions and restore the legislation to construct new schools in urban districts as approved in an earlier committee.

For more information on any of these bills, please feel free to contact me or any of my staff: Bonnie Gruening, Jenney Yousey, Rachel Cramer, and Cody Rice.

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