

APOC's Demise will be A Pox on Alaska

It's easy to see why Governor Murkowski didn't mention his intention of dismantling the Alaska Public Offices Commission (APOC) in his State of the Budget address. Indeed, most Alaskans might not even remember that APOC is the agency that saved us from "Governor" Lindauer in the 1998 election.

But Alaskans can be counted on for fairness, and Governor Murkowski's proposal doesn't even pass the laugh test. His bill would move the APOC to the Department of Law where it would be administered by the Attorney General, his appointee. Right now, the commission has a five member, bi-partisan panel that has a necessary independence from partisan politics.

Gov. Murkowski's plan would end citizens' ability to file a free complaint with APOC. Instead they would have to hire a lawyer and take a candidate to court, because Gov. Murkowski believes that will be faster. Courts? Faster? Since when?

The most appalling part is that Governor Murkowski faults APOC for a "lack of timely enforcement" even though his campaign asked for an extension in one of the cases APOC is currently investigating against him. Governor Murkowski's bill mandates electronic reporting, even though he filed his reports on paper, which took APOC staff two weeks to enter.

Ending APOC will only increase the amount that Big Money special interests will have on our political system.

Sincerely,

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