

Hopes for the 32nd Alaska Legislature

Description

Finding The Best Glidepath For Lawmaking

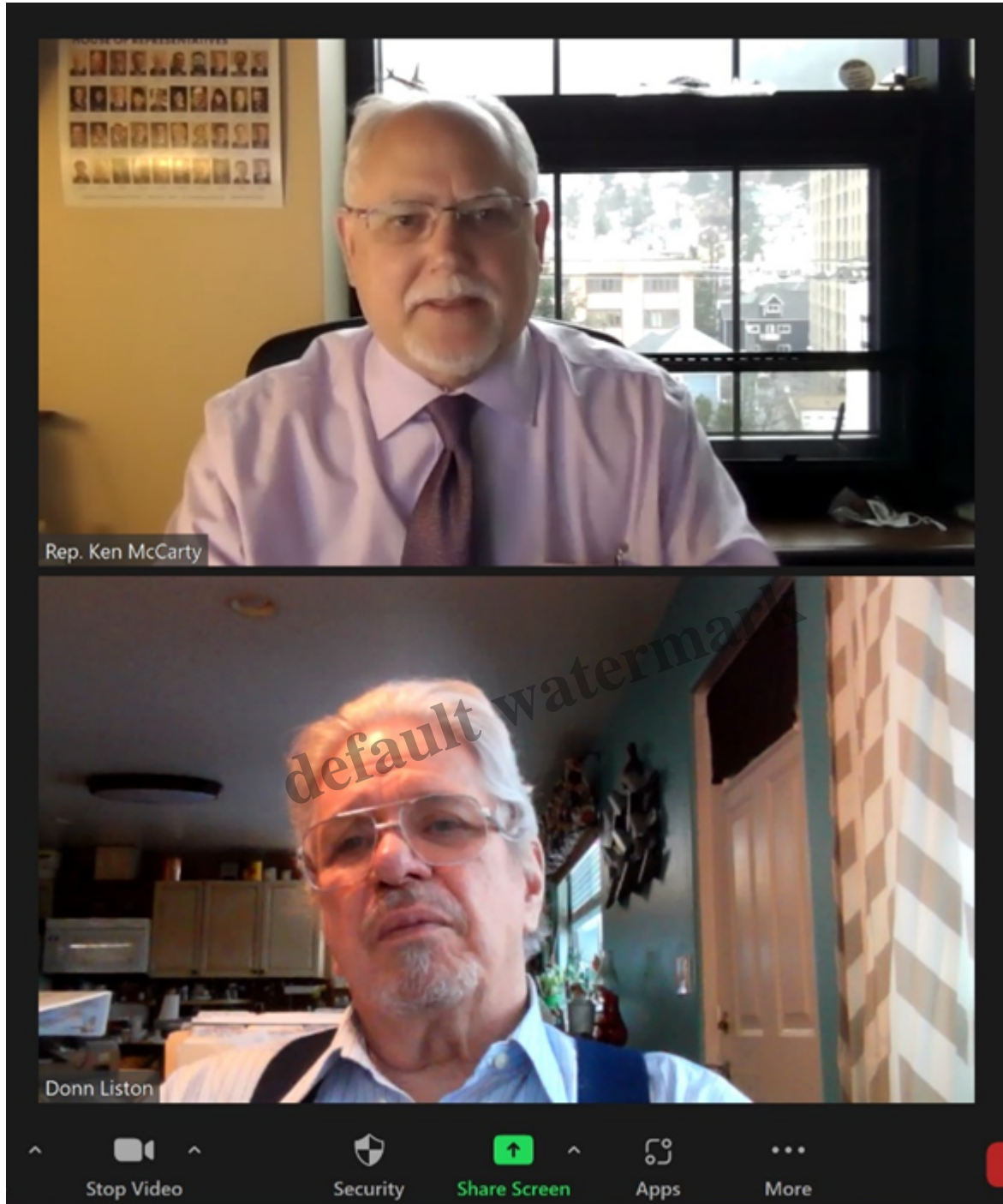
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One abiding trait of a good teacher is ability to make instruction interesting and compelling to students. We teachers must instill the glory of the universe together with the wonder of a simple grain of sand. There are many ways to do this. So, when two teachers get together to talk about why one of them is in public office—and what is being accomplished in that role—the teacher who is asking questions must put the lesson into context.

*Donn, you have been here and you know it is about relationships, and how to have relationships with all the people in the building, explained Chugiak/Eagle River District 13 Rep. **Ken McCarty**, on a Zoom call from his Capital office. To be an effective legislator means using good arguments to present a bill—or to question a bill—whether to make an amendment or not make an amendment to bills. But in the end it has to do with relationships. I see in this building a lot of varied relationships.*

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With one master's degree in Education and another master's degree in Counseling, McCarty uses an instructional voice and specific examples to explain the lesson:

Trudeau says Conservatives stoking fear over Canada's trucker vaccine mandate

Prime minister says claims that Covid-19 measure will disrupt supply chain and boost inflation are 'fearmongering'



📷 Justin Trudeau: 'I regret that conservative politicians ... are fearmongering ... but the reality is that vaccination is how we're going to get through this.' Photograph: Blair Gable/Reuters

*A couple of days ago I proposed a bi-partisan letter to be sent to **Prime Minister of Canada, Justin Trudeau**, from the **Alaska Legislature**, explained McCarty. **Speaker of the House Stutes** had said the day before: "we want to change the dynamic here and we want to be able to work together." So, by one o'clock the Republican group was concerned that the letter would be hijacked by the Democrats and they would submit it before I could get it out by 6:00 or 7:00 that night. I told my Republican caucus members: "One, if it does happen that's too bad but at least the letter gets to Trudeau, and two, if that happens it will counter what the Speaker has said just the day before." Fortunately the letter was not intercepted by the Majority. I had gathered a bipartisan group whose signatures were on it, and it was sent to Prime Minister Trudeau.[1]*



Louise Stutes
Speaker of the House

District 32

Party: Republican

City: Kodiak

McCarty continued: *I think my efforts were successful because I am trying to have a healthy relationship with all players here, which doesn't mean I agree with everything said, but where we are hyper-polarized we don't accomplish things. Some don't agree with ANYTHING from the other side. That behavior doesn't get us very far and doesn't result in the kind of statesmanship we need for good political outcomes.*

It took 30 days for the minority to organize the ***Alaska House of Representatives*** at the start of this legislative session in 2021, after certain so-called Republicans aligned with with the Democrat minority. District 14 Rep. **Kelly Merrick**, gained a spot as chair of the **Finance Committee** to continue Alaska's special interest big government spending spree as reward for **Machiavellian** political betrayal.[3].

Rep. McCarty did not talk about Rep. Merrick. Her actions speak for themselves.



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*It is important to be able to differentiate between what is important and what isn't, continued McCarty. We must separate crisis from the **Tyranny of Urgency**; what is the priority from what is a distraction acting like a priority?*

In the 1960s, Charles Hummel published a little booklet called [Tyranny of the Urgent](#), and it quickly became a business classic. In it, Hummel argues that there is a regular tension between things that are urgent and things that are important—and far too often, the urgent wins.

In the business world, this means that demands of your boss, your client, or petty office relationships can often take priority over things that actually matter, like thoroughly completing a task before starting the next one, or building unity in a work team that would instill camaraderie and longevity.

The *urgent*, though less important, is prioritized, and therefore the *important* is put on the back burner.[3]

As a businessman himself, does McCarty believes this may be why so little is getting done in Juneau?



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I see this all of the time, said McCarty. There is a Tyranny of Urgency now in data collection. I say: "Show me the evidence from an objective position." It seems many people are swayed by data that is selective and when questioned on how does this relate to certain specific variables, they don't have an answer.

McCarty continued: Covid is a classic example. Look at the data before Covid; this is what the flu season was, and this is how many people got it, the deaths from many things and how many are in the hospital, due to whatever. Since Covid, meaningful data has become obscure. Now everybody has gotten Covid and very few people died from anything else. Everything is Covid!

How is Omicron different than flu season? Kids are going back to school and all of a sudden some are sick with the flu. In the past we didn't freak out like is happening today, said McCarty.

So what legislation is McCarty trying to get passed in Juneau?

LEGISLATIVE SERVICE:

32nd (2021-2022)

Prime Sponsorship

Bill	Short Title	Prime Sponsor(s)	Current Status	Status Date
HB 53	MILITARY CHILDREN SCHOOL RESIDENCY WAIVER	REPRESENTATIVE MCCARTY	(S) EDC	05/14/2021
HB 108	CONCURRENT SECONDARY & TRADE SCHOOL	REPRESENTATIVE MCCARTY	(H) EDC	02/22/2021
HB 142	PFD ELIGIBILITY	REPRESENTATIVE MCCARTY	(H) STA	04/28/2021
HB 277	PROFESSIONAL LIC. RENEWAL/LATE FEE	REPRESENTATIVE MCCARTY	(H) L&C	01/18/2022
HB 278	COVID-19 VACCINATION EQUIVALENT	REPRESENTATIVE MCCARTY	(H) L&C	01/18/2022
HB4010	PERMANENT FUND DIVIDEND; POMV SPLIT	REPRESENTATIVE MCCARTY	(H) W&M	10/12/2021

McCarty was eager to discuss his offerings:

***HB 142** says military members who move out of state will no longer receive a **Permanent Fund Dividend** payment, explained McCarty. Last year the **Permanent Fund Corporation** paid out \$20,000,000 to people who no longer live here but keep collecting PFD checks under the guise of “intend to come back.”*

I ask: where is that crystal ball? A lot do not return but keep getting paid for themselves and their kids, said McCarty. It isn't right.

One might ask: Why haven't any previous legislatures addressed this issue?

What is interesting, is military people who have retired and stayed in Alaska don't think it's right either, said McCarty. When the PFD was first proposed to be paid on a sliding scale according to length of residency it was determined to be illegal by the courts. I would say what is happening now is illegal because if you say this particular group of people can enroll and leave the state and keep receiving the dividend then you must say ANYONE who leaves the state should be able to continue receiving the Dividend.



Property Rights have been under assault in Alaska for many years. Our prolonged fight has been expensive--the opposition enabled by corrupt elected officials. Our case is scheduled to be heard January 18, 2022 at Nesbett Courthouse (3AN-19-05746).

Please contribute: <https://gogetfunding.com/protecting-property-rights-in-alaska>
Contact: steamboat_000@aol.com



To read this story: <https://donnliston.blogspot.com/2021/08/arrogance-of-entitlement.html>

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Another bill that McCarty is sole primary sponsor: **HB 53** has passed the House 40-0 and is in Senate Education Committee now, continued McCarty. It has been presented once and will be presented again this week before moving on. It is about allowing military families "PCSing" to Alaska to be able to sign their kids up for school before arrival so their kids can get into the classes they need.

It's an easy bill, everybody in the House likes it so we will see how it is received in the Senate, he said. I was pleased it passed 40-0![5]

HB 278 says that if you have had Covid you are naturally vaccinated. You cannot lose your job, and if you test and have the antibodies that is all you need. You don't have to keep being tested because you already have the antibodies. That bill was presented on the house floor and is in committee.[6]

What about education?

***HB 108** provides for trade training for students while they are still in high school. The unique feature of this bill is that “anybody who is a master in the trades, using nationally recognized curriculum, will be able to become certified with an “M” Certification, and can teach high school kids starting at age 14, in the trades,*

explained McCarty. This would mean students graduating with actual trade certification. A piece of paper that says you have attended classes means nothing in the trades; this law would empower kids in high school and also gets the community involved in education through these individuals who are proficient in particular trades providing training.

***King Career Center** is a great example of a school that is providing trade training, but this bill says all schools will have the option of doing this by connecting with entities in the community who will be able to help educate our kids for career success.*



Read *Sheldon Air Service* story here: <https://donnliston.net/2021/08/what-would-don-and-roberta-sheldon-have.html>

For example, continued McCarty, ***Chugiak High School** has **Birchwood Airport** just down the street. If a kid wants to learn airport maintenance or management or aviation mechanics—or wants to become a pilot—they would do some things at the school and also go down to the airport and get concurrent enrollment in a related trade. This provides recognition of the trades and recognition of the high school.*

*We are getting a lot of letters about this bill, endorsing this concept. Alaska balladeer **Ken Peltier** has, already agreed to do **Hobo Jim**’s “Educated Man” song on a video to promote it.*

Rep. McCarty has also co-sponsored a number of other bills.

Readers may find all the bills with his name on them here:

http://www.akleg.gov/basis/Member/Detail/32?code=mcc#tab7_3



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What is the big picture from Juneau?

I am big into education as you are, Donn, and I want to see Alaskans who leave the state to get educated coming back, said McCarty. For example, my son is going to med school in Idaho—I visited him at Thanksgiving—along with four others who are from Alaska. Unfortunately, there is no residency program with that school in Alaska. So what are we doing to entice our people to come back to Alaska and maybe entice others to also come to Alaska for high skilled positions here?

We invest a lot of money in helping Alaskans gain higher education and our economy needs certain skills over others.[8]

I am an optimist! It is early in the session but last year we didn't do a good job—we only passed 37 bills—so I say we need to work together, we need to make things happen. Let's present the arguments and move along to fly the plane.



Some might say the 32nd Alaska Legislature spent the first half of this session with great difficulty learning to land. Now it is time to learn how to fly.

References:

[1] Letter from Alaska Legislature to *Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau*

repkenmccarty.com

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Interim – May-December:
1500 W. Benson Blvd.
Anchorage, AK 99503
907-334-2630



Session – January-April:
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801
907-465-3783

Representative Ken McCarty

Rep.Ken.McCarty@akleg.gov

January 19, 2022

The Right Honorable Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau:

As members of the Alaska State Legislature, we wish to express our concern and dismay at the January 15, 2022 vaccine mandate imposed upon United States truck drivers entering Canada to and from Alaska, and respectfully request you rescind this requirement.

The current mandate prevents Alaska-based and other US-based truckers who choose to remain unvaccinated from entering and exiting Canada with valuable and vital goods headed for the people of Alaska as well as the lower-48 US states and the provinces of Canada.

We are all aware of recent reports of supply-chain difficulties, including the shortage of truck drivers. This workforce challenge will only be exacerbated by your and President Biden's vaccine mandates and intensify the supply-chain dilemma. In short, the vaccination requirement for truck drivers will severely and negatively impact both Americans and Canadians who rely on goods hauled by truck drivers for daily living; it will also severely and negatively impact the economies of the states and provinces as well as the economies of both of our nations.

Specifically in Alaska, the vaccine mandate will increase the food insecurity of Alaskans, add to the inflationary costs we already face, and jeopardize jobs and the well-being of individuals and families. Today, the shelves of grocery stores, auto part retailers, and building material suppliers in Alaska are among the sectors already affected by supply shortages. Alaskan livelihoods depend upon a continual flow of trade back and forth between your nation and ours, between your provinces and our state. Let us continue this mutual benefit.

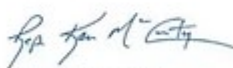
We would like to draw to your attention that the American Truckers Association and the Canadian Truckers Association maintain that truck drivers, by nature of their job description, remain isolated from the general public, as demonstrated by low Coronavirus infection rates among drivers. We also ask that you note that the Alaska Trucking Association opposes the

vaccine mandates in both Canada and the United States. Vaccine restrictions on truck drivers are detrimental, with more than two-thirds of the internationally traded goods between the United States and Canada hauled by road.

In closing, as Alaskans we cherish our cooperative relationship with our Canadian neighbors that has endured for years. This necessary transportation of goods between and through our lands is vital and beneficial to both Alaskans and Canadians and should continue uninterrupted.

We, the undersigned members of the Alaska State Legislature, humbly request that you lift the recently imposed vaccine requirement for truckers traversing the Canadian border (as we ask our federal administration to do the same on behalf of your Canadian truckers who face the same restrictive mandate traversing the U.S. border).


Respectfully,



Rep. Ken McCarty



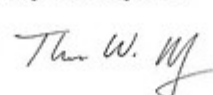
Rep. Ben Carpenter



Rep. Christopher Kurka



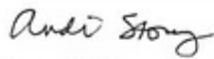
Rep. Grier Hopkins



Rep. Tom McKay



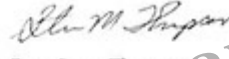
Rep. George Rauscher



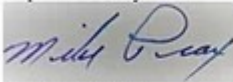
Rep. Andi Story



Rep. Bart LeBon



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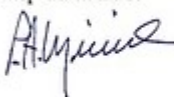
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Rep. David Nelson



Rep. Cathy Tilton



Sen. Peter Micciche



Rep. Mike Cronk



Rep. Matt Claman



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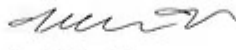
Rep. James Kaufman



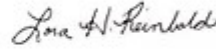
Sen. Shelley Hughes



Rep. Josiah Patkotak




Sen. Robert Myers



Sen. Lara Reinbold



Sen. Mike Shower



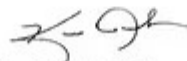
Sen. Roger Holland



Sen. Tom Begich



Rep. David Eastman



Rep. Kevin McCabe

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[2]The Art of Simple; fighting Tyranny of the Urgent

<https://www.theartofsimple.net/fighting-the-tyranny-of-the-urgent-at-home/>

[3] **Niccolò Machiavelli, *The Prince***: “The first and most persistent view of Machiavelli is that of a teacher of evil...Machiavelli’s

version recommends that a prince go to the “effectual truth” of things and forgo the standard of “what should be done” lest he bring about his ruin. To maintain himself a prince must learn how not to be good and use or not use this knowledge “according to necessity.”

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Niccolo-Machiavelli/The-Prince>

[4]HB 142, “An Act relating to eligibility for the permanent fund dividend.”

<http://www.akleg.gov/PDF/32/Bills/HB0142A.PDF>

[5]HB 53, “An Act relating to residency requirements for public school enrollment for certain children of active duty military and National Guard members.”

<http://www.akleg.gov/PDF/32/Bills/HB0053B.PDF>

[6]HB 278, “An Act relating to vaccination equivalents for the COVID-19 virus; and providing for an effective date.”

<http://www.akleg.gov/basis/Bill/Detail/32?Root=HB%20278>

[7]HB 108, “An Act relating to concurrent vocational education, training, and on-the-job trade experience programs for students enrolled in public secondary schools; relating to child labor; and providing for an effective date.”

<https://www.akleg.gov/basis/Bill/Detail/32?Root=hb108>

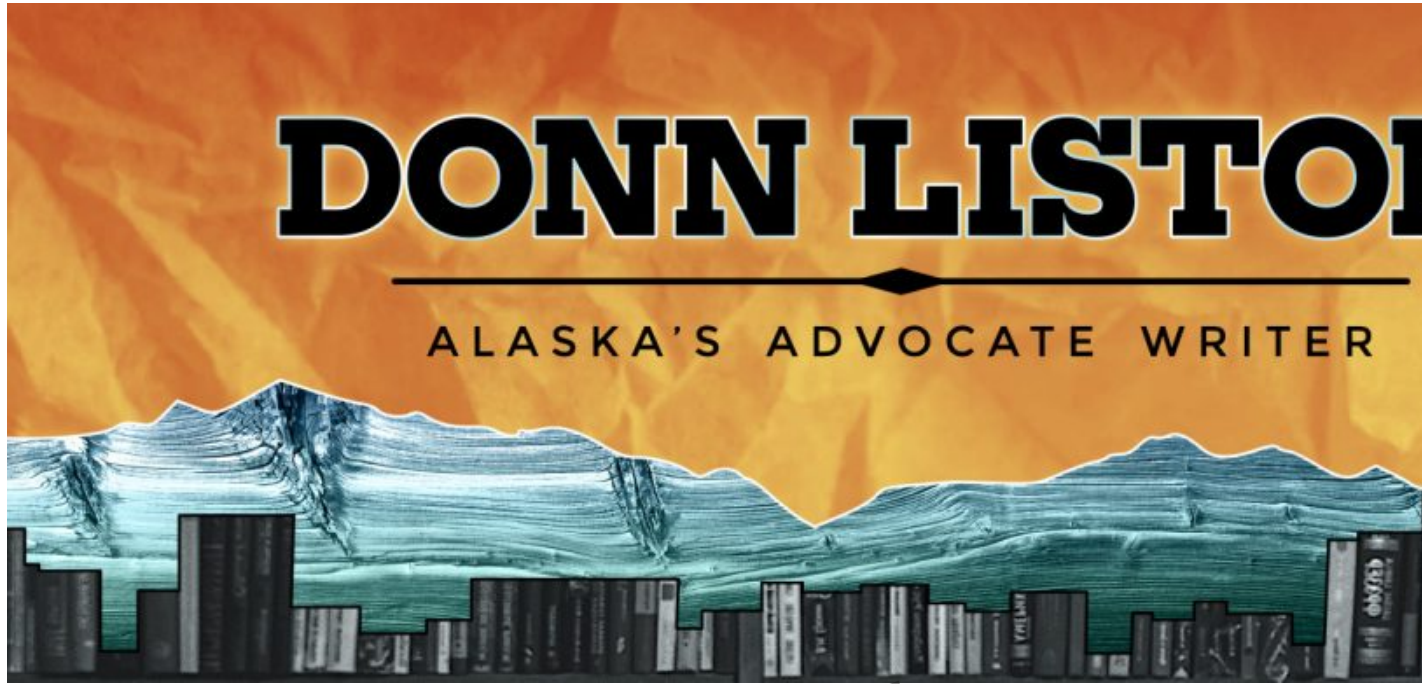
[8]Job Considerations to stay in Alaska

<https://donnliston.net/2022/01/jobs-considerations-to-stay-in-alaska.html>

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