

# Alaska State Legislature

## Legislative Affairs Agency

Office of the Executive Director


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### MEMORANDUM

TO: Senator Donny Olson

FROM: Pam Varni, Executive Director 

DATE: November 30, 2016

SUBJECT: Violation of Legislative Council Moving & Travel Policy

The Legislative Affairs Agency has some serious concerns about your adjourning travel shipments of household goods and personal effects. It took a long time for the shipping company to send us a descriptive inventory of your \$12,237.75 adjourning 2016 shipping bill. Though I can certainly appreciate that it is more expensive to move a large family between Juneau and Golovin (or any other rural community), the items that you have shipped are in violation of the Legislative Council Moving and Travel Policy. The Policy allows for shipment of household goods and personal effects. Further, the Legislative Affairs Agency (LAA) "Guidelines for Apportioning Freight" state the items must be reasonable, they must be necessary, and they must have a legislative business connection.

The items listed on your family move inventory for the last two years include heavy tools and equipment, band saw, saw horse, four air compressors, ladders, heavy hand tools, washer and dryer, wood, building materials, professional gardening tools, weed whacker, large photographic equipment, etc. Wood and building materials are specifically listed in the policy as items not allowed to be shipped. The other concerning thing is that we don't ever see any items coming to Juneau. How are these items getting to Juneau? Typically to qualify as an approved expense, we would see these items coming to Juneau from Golovin for your use while in Juneau and we would see them going back home after the adjournment of session. The reason you would be bringing them is that you and your family couldn't move to Juneau to perform your duties as a Legislator without them. You are living at the fully furnished legislative apartments which provide both a washer and dryer and landscaping services. There is no legislative purpose for you to have these items in Juneau, therefore the State will not pay to ship them back.

I received your email about the air compressors being used to inflate air beds. That is not an acceptable justification, as an air bed can be inflated with a hair dryer or a foot pump. Per the descriptive inventory of the air compressor sent to Golovin last year attached is a picture of the large air compressor (Model 90234). It is egregious to bill the Legislative Affairs Agency (LAA) for three air compressors in one year. You also stated the wood was for your woodworking hobby. Your hobby is not a legislative business purpose. As such, the State will not pay for wood, air compressors, building supplies, power tools, miter box, gardening tools - professional equipment, multiple shovels, heavy hand tools, and tool chest.

One last item to mention is LAA is currently paying for interim storage in Juneau for you. The reason to obtain interim storage is because it is less expensive to store items and incur a monthly storage cost rather than ship items back and forth. We are currently paying \$183.81 per month for your interim storage. As the Executive Officer for Legislative Council and Certifying Officer for LAA, I cannot continue to pay shipping bills that are not for legislative business and in addition pay for monthly storage. You should be storing the items in your storage unit rather than shipping them back at the end of each session.

Accounting has about \$4,000 in travel reimbursements for your recent travels that we will not be reimbursing in an effort to pay down the freight bill that we have already paid on your behalf. I will have the Accounting Office send a full list of the trips and the amounts we are collecting.

Enclosure

cc: Senator Gary Stevens, Chair, Legislative Council