

Alaska State Legislature



Senate Republicans

February 13, 2018

The Honorable William Walker
Governor of the State of Alaska
PO Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

Dear Governor Bill Walker:

We have received your letter to appoint Randal Kowalke to the vacant District E Senate Seat from the Mat-Su Valley.

Senate Republicans feel that the appointment varies from the traditional procedure employed to fill such vacancies. In this case, we request that you consider returning to the impacted district for other suggestions if you feel you cannot appoint one of the three forwarded to your office.

This request is in no way related to Mr. Kowalke. Although many of us in the Senate Republican group do not know Mr. Kowalke personally, we appreciate his willingness to apply and his service to Alaska. Our reluctance is due to our preference for adherence to the traditional process involving local participation. We feel that voting to accept or reject Mr. Kowalke unfairly personalizes our request to remain within the process. Mr. Kowalke should not have his good name become a casualty of the process.

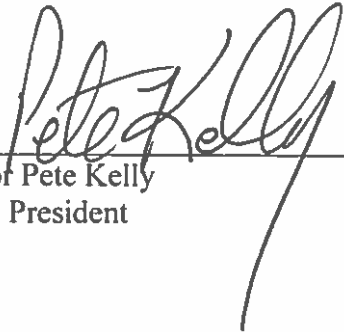
The good folks from District E assembled a team of 45 Republican Alaskans from all over the vast district to interview 11 individuals. They completed a fair evaluation process, ranked the individuals and forwarded three names to you. If you feel that none of the three individuals are the "right fit" for the district, we acknowledge that it is legally your prerogative to reject all three. However, we also believe that the district should be provided the opportunity to provide you with a new list.

We occupy these offices in the hallowed halls of this Capitol only briefly. They belong to the Alaskans of our various districts forever. We believe that the people who elected Senator Dunleavy should be given an opportunity to temporarily fill the seat with a candidate they support by providing you with a new list unless you decide one of the original three choices will suffice.

District E deserves to be represented in the Senate. We believe that the timeliest solution to filling this vacancy must involve recommendations from the Republicans in District E. We can assure you that if this issue were related to a Senate seat controlled by another party, you would receive a similar letter from current Senate Republicans. In our view, this is about process and not a partisan issue.

Thank you for considering our request. Please feel free to enlist our assistance if we can help you reach out to the district, should you choose that the best avenue would include a list of new individuals from District E Republicans.

Sincerely,



Senator Pete Kelly
Senate President

Senator Peter Micciche
Senate Majority Leader

CC: Scott Kendall, Governor's Chief of Staff
Darwin Peterson, Governor's Legislative Director