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Dear Chairman Hawker,

The Alaska Public Offices Commission (APOC) is an important and vital state commission and agency. Their overall mission and their public disclosure requirements for campaigns, lobbyists and public officials are essential for transparency and protecting the public's access to vital information. Several issues of concern have created questions about APOC's performance, fairness and integrity.

The agency has been experiencing high turnover. There have been rumblings and complaints that the agency often times fails to provide timely advice or provides conflicting advice. Some have suggested fines and penalties are arbitrary, capricious and not handled in a consistent manner. Further, allegations have been made regarding APOC's motivation for investigations and audits.

I respectfully request an audit of APOC to address the following:

- Identify the rate of APOC staff turnover for the calendar years 2009 through 2012 and determine whether the agency has taken appropriate steps to minimize turnover and its impact on operations.
- Ascertain APOC's methodology for assessing fines and penalties. Determine whether fines and penalties are based on an objective methodology and assessed in a consistent manner.
- Ascertain APOC's process for auditing information. Determine whether the process is objective and fair.
- To help evaluate productivity and the impact of agency turnover, summarize and analyze statistics regarding APOC's workload for calendar years 2009 through 2012. Statistics should include investigations, audits, publications, trainings held, and other projects or quantifiable tasks.
- Evaluate APOC operations and determine whether the agency's operations are in line with their statutory mission.

Given the impact of APOC on individuals, campaigns, and the public, I feel it is essential that the legislature be diligent in overseeing the agency's operations.

Thank you for your time and consideration.


Representative Bill Thomas

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET AND AUDIT COMMITTEE



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AUDIT REQUEST ADDENDUM

At its January 14, 2013, meeting, the Legislative Budget and Audit Committee authorized adding the following objective to the request for an audit of the Alaska Public Offices Commission (APOC) operations.

- Identify the contributing factors for the increase in APOC's personal services budget.