



LEADERSHIP RESPONDS TO RESERVES TAX BEING WITHDRAWN
'Step in the right direction' for building a pipeline

Friday, October 23, 2015, Juneau, Alaska – Members of House Leadership were relieved to see the governor withdraw Gas Reserves Tax legislation from the special session call today and applauded the decision by the administration.

"This is good news for the future of the gasline and the future of our state," House Speaker Mike Chenault, R-Nikiski, said. "Instead of making hurdles for the producers to jump over we're working with them to get the best deal for Alaska. I applaud the governor and his team for realizing the importance of working with the leaseholders of natural gas in Alaska to obtain project certainty. This is definitely a step in the right direction."

Similar legislation overwhelmingly failed on a ballot initiative in 2006 by more than 70,000 votes.

"We came to Juneau for this special session to do one thing; to make sure we advance a natural gas pipeline," House Majority Leader Charisse Millett, R-Anchorage, said. "By removing the gas reserves tax from the call we are creating more fiscal certainty and ultimately project certainty."

"Taking it off the call is the right thing to do," Rules Chairman Craig Johnson, R-Anchorage, said on learning the governor had backed off earlier threats to introduce what Johnson described as 'a punitive tax.' "Threatening your partners is never a good idea. We need to pull together, not pull apart if we want to get the pipeline built."

The Legislature will still convene tomorrow, Oct. 24 at 11:00 a.m. to take up the TransCanada buyout.

#

For more information, contact the House Majority Press Office at 907-465-6791.