

February 20, 2024

The Honorable Cathy Tilton  
Speaker of the House  
Alaska State Legislature  
Capitol Building, Room 208  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Speaker Tilton:

Under the authority of Article III, Section 18, of the Alaska Constitution, I am transmitting a bill relating to obstruction of access to public places. The bill increases the penalties for obstructing highways and navigable waterways, and for criminal trespass, where there is a substantial risk of physical harm or interference with emergency response. The bill expands criminal liability for obstructing airport runways. The bill also establishes a new crime of obstruction in public places. Finally, the bill creates a new civil cause of action by any person who is obstructed and provides for statutory damages in addition to compensatory and other damages. Liability extends to persons and organizations that conspire with or encourage anyone who engages in public obstruction.

Alaskans have a constitutional liberty interest in freely moving about the State. This bill will protect the right to freedom of movement against infringement by increasing and expanding existing criminal prohibitions on obstructing public places and rights of way and by establishing new civil liability for obstruction of public places.

I urge your prompt and favorable action on this measure.

Sincerely,

Mike Dunleavy  
Governor

Enclosure