



Republicans on Edgmon Proposal to Gut PFD Program

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 15, 2019 (JUNEAU) – Following Governor Dunleavy’s announcement that he intends to call a special session, House Speaker Bryce Edgmon indicated in a press statement that his leadership team in the House of Representatives is considering a plan to address whether or not the Permanent Fund Dividend should “actually remain permanent.”

Rep. Lance Pruitt (R-Anchorage), the House Minority Leader, released the following statement:

“The fact that, at the eleventh hour, the House leadership is considering plans to gut the PFD program shouldn’t really be all that surprising considering the way they’ve handled business this session. They had 121 days to avoid special sessions, and they knew exactly what needed to get accomplished before tonight’s deadline.”

“At the beginning of this session, we were told that a 21-person majority would never be able to get any work done,” said **Rep. Josh Revak** (R-Anchorage). “Well, it appears that the current 25-person majority hasn’t worked either. With less than six hours to go before midnight, we have no budget, no education funding, no crime reform, and no PFD.”

“The wheels have come off the bus. Some members have said they feel rushed to get things done, but there has been no sense of urgency whatsoever,” added **Rep. Ben Carpenter** (R-Nikiski). “I hope Alaskans will show up at every meeting of the special session and make their presence known to those who have willfully ignored their requests for the last four months.”

“The House Majority spent the entire session trying to show Alaskans they knew better, and in the process have only proved that they themselves have no understanding of how to govern,” said **Rep. George Rauscher** (R-Sutton). “Their intentional delays are forcing Alaskans to shell out money for special sessions, and that’s a tragedy.

The House Republicans will hold a press availability following the completion of the 2019 regular legislative session.

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