

Trip report

Washington D.C. December 2021

Councilman Thomas Bell

We traveled to DC to meet with various Federal agencies and Alaska representatives. This was my first trip to DC and my goal was to learn as much as possible about the process and environment of our federal government first hand. The delegation was comprised of persons representing the City of Unalaska, OC, Q tribe and OCCP. A common praise among our senators and representative was the trilateral agreement and the ability of these entities to work together.

Attached is the itinerary for this trip. Below are some of the highlights of various meetings

Senator Lisa Murkowski

The senator and her staff were very cordial and attentive. We had good conversations that were centered on improving air travel to Unalaska, the potential benefits of geothermal power and the strategic importance of Unalaska.

Senator Dan Sullivan

The senator and his staff were also quite welcoming. We presented our needs and concerns for Unalaska and had a good conversation about the Coast Guard and its potential role in Alaska and Unalaska in particular. A conversation was also had about geothermal power in Unalaska and this projects benefits more broadly.

## Representative Don Young

When we met with Rep. Young, he had just returned from being recognized by his peers as the longest serving Member of the House of Representatives. Our meeting with Rep. Young and his staff was very productive. We discussed Unalaska and our legislative priorities. It was an Honor to meet Rep. Young.

## US Coast Guard

We met with a variety of personnel and had an informative discussion about the Coast Guard's potential arctic development plans and how Unalaska could play a role.

## Department of Transportation

A group of us met with DOT to discuss Essential Air Service program. After some constructive conversation about the EAS program, it was clear that it didn't have the capability of alleviating any of Unalaska's travel problems. Both sides did learn a bit more about the program and its benefits to the Aleutians and Alaska Peninsula.

I learned a lot from this experience and am confident that money spent on our state and federal lobbyists, is money well spent.

Thomas Bell