

ALASKA BUSH CAUCUS



February 8, 2021

Governor Michael J. Dunleavy
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 110001

Dear Governor Dunleavy,

Hundreds of Alaskans in the community of Tuluksak have been forced to live without access to drinkable water after the water treatment plant and washeteria caught fire on January 16. Despite the heroic efforts of village residents to fight the flames, the incident resulted in the total loss of these critical facilities.

Individuals, as well as regional partners in public and private sectors, rose to the occasion and took action to support the 370 Alaskans who abruptly found themselves without access to a reliable water. According to local reporting, the Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation and individual donors, including the Indigenous rapper Taboo of the Black Eyed Peas, sent pallets of water to the village. Companies, including Alaska Airlines and Donlin Gold, also sent shipments of water.

The outpouring of goodwill is a testament to the spirit of Alaskans. Sadly, this approach stands in stark contrast to the inaction of the State of Alaska, which has not sent help or responded to the plea of residents urging an emergency disaster declaration.

As State legislators who represent rural districts, we respectfully urge you to expedite Tuluksak's disaster declaration request, free up funding where possible to leverage federal resources, and deploy the Alaska National Guard in alignment with regional partners to offer relief as the community rebuilds from this disaster. Leaving the community without sustained water security amid the worst public health pandemic in over a century is simply not an option. Immediate State action is clearly needed.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Tiffany Zulkosky in blue ink.

Rep. Tiffany Zulkosky

Handwritten signature of Donny Olson in blue ink.

Sen. Donny Olson

Handwritten signature of Bryce Edgmon in blue ink.

Rep. Bryce Edgmon

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Josiah Patkotak". The signature is stylized with a large initial "J" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Rep. Josiah Patkotak

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Neal Foster". The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized.

Rep. Neal Foster