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Nearly Half of Legislature Will Visit DC Next Week

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by The Associated Press

11:14 a.m. AKST, February 22, 2011

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JUNEAU, Alaska Nearly half of the 60-member state Legislature plans to be in Washington, D.C., next week for an Energy Council conference.

Lawmakers defend the annual trip as important given Alaska's heavy reliance on oil. They say it's also an opportunity to meet with decision-makers.

At least 29 lawmakers are expected to attend, according to interviews and lists provided by the majority offices.

The list of attendees includes Reps. Craig Johnson, Carl Gatto, Eric Feige, Reggie Joule, Anna Fairclough, Chris Tuck, Paul Seaton, Lance Pruitt, Neal Foster, Tammie Wilson, Bob Lynn, Alan Austerman, Berta Gardner, Scott Kawasaki and Dan Saddler.

Sens. Gary Stevens, John Coghill, Bettye Davis, Fred Dyson, Johnny Ellis, Cathy Giessel, Lyman Hoffman, Lesil McGuire, Linda Menard, Donny Olson, Joe Paskvan, Bert Stedman, Joe Thomas and Tom Wagoner are also expected to attend.

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TruthSeeker at 12:27 PM February 22, 2011

Ok, let me get this straight--90 days isn't enough time to conduct business, but they can take a trip during the legislative session. Why can't they conduct business via tele-conference. Guess it really does not matter, either way they are receiving per-diem. However, bet the shopping in Washington D.C. is better. What is the definition of "insanity"--doing the same thing and expecting different results. They have traveled in previous years, yet the Feds continue to thwart are efforts in developing our energy resoures. Senator Begich promised that he'd be able to convince democrats, yet we are still waiting, and waiting and waiting.

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