

MARK BEGICH
ALASKA

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
COMMITTEE ON
COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION
COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 1, 2010

SUITE SR-144
RUSSELL BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510
(202) 224-3004

SUITE 750
510 L STREET
ANCHORAGE, AK 99501
(907) 271-5915

The Honorable Daniel Sullivan
Attorney General
Alaska Department of Law
PO Box 110300
Juneau, AK 99811-0300

Dear Attorney General Sullivan:

It has recently come to my attention that the Alaska Department of Revenue recently ruled the annual Fur Rendezvous Poker Tournament of Champions is "illegal gambling." This ruling has jeopardized a great event Alaskans look forward to every year, one generating thousands of dollars for deserving charities.

For years the Rondy tournament was conducted as a state champion event where the best of the best come together to play poker for charity and select a champion. The winner is then entitled to attend the world champion tournament in Las Vegas. I personally have participated in the tournament many times and think it's an excellent way to bring Alaskans together from around the state, celebrate the Fur Rondy, and raise money for charity.

The recent Department of Revenue decision breaks from legal readings of past administrations. Like more than 50 other similar events put on by the Alaska Poker Association, the Fur Rondy tournament is a charitable dinner with celebrity guests followed by a free poker tournament. The dinner helps raise funds for Fur Rondy, Inc., to organize the many great Fur Rondy events around Anchorage.

I encourage you to review this decision and quickly issue a legal opinion that allows the tournament to occur this year.

Sincerely,



Mark Begich
United States Senator

CC: Ms. Susan Duck, Executive Director, Anchorage Fur Rendezvous