

Government reform meets scheduled

Sen. Ted Stevens has announced that the Governmental Affairs Committee, which he chairs, will hold a series of hearings in Alaska on the subject of reforming government.

According to a press release, the gatherings will be the first of several national sessions to gather comments from citizens on ways to restructure government.

Congress is currently considering legislation to dismantle the Commerce Department and set up an independent commission, similar to the Base Closure and Alignment Commission, that would recommend the elimination or restructuring of federal departments.

Hearings are planned for:

October 4 Fairbanks

October 5 Anchorage

October 7 Ketchikan

Times and locations will be announced as soon as they are available.

Stevens has expressed interest in a plan that would put all federal land management functions under one agency, and creating a Department of Administration that would reduce the paperwork and redundant administrative functions now carried out by individual departments.

The Governmental Affairs Committee has jurisdiction over federal and postal employees and is charged with working to ensure that all branches of government operate efficiently.