

Cowper calls Legislature to July 1 special session

JUNEAU — Gov. Steve Cowper last week called the Alaska Legislature into special session, beginning July 1, to balance next year's state budget and ensure that a drop in oil prices does not leave Alaska without the necessary reserves to maintain basic government services.

Cowper also is asking the Legislature to approve a public works budget in order to capture federal matching money for construction and maintenance of roads, buildings and water and sewer systems.

"Legislators left town last month without carrying out their most basic duty — balancing the state budget," Cowper said.

"The House did its job, but one House isn't enough," he added. "It's illegal for us to have an unbalanced budget. In addition, it could hurt our national credit rating and cost us jobs because investors are going to look elsewhere."