



**ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
HOUSE RULES COMMITTEE
REPRESENTATIVE JOHN COGHILL, CHAIRMAN**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**REPRESENTATIVE COGHILL CALLS FOR
REPLACEMENT OF HOLLIS FRENCH**

Representative John Coghill, R-North Pole, today sent a letter to Senator Kim Elton, D-Juneau, Chairman of the Legislative Council requesting a convening of the Council to discuss recent comments made by Senator Hollis French, D-Anchorage, that were political in nature about an investigation intended to be apolitical.

Coghill cited in the letter, "On September 2, in an interview with ABCnews.com, Sen. Hollis French was quoted as stating that the Legislative Council report was going to be an 'October surprise.' He was further quoted as stating that the report was 'likely to be damaging to the administration,' that the Governor "had a credibility problem" and that 'If she was involved [in allegedly obtaining confidential information], it would be a violation of state law.' He was also quoted stating that 'If they had done their job they never would have picked her,' 'Now they may have to deal with an October surprise.'"

In his letter to Elton, Coghill requested that French be replaced as Project Director by someone who can be "professional, unbiased, independent, objective, and conducted at arm's length from the political process," as was directed by the Legislative Council at their July 28th committee meeting.

Coghill said he is disturbed that French has hijacked what was to be a fair investigation and turned it into a smear campaign using state money to hurt Governor Palin. "Sen. French appears to be steering the direction of the investigation, its conclusion, and its timing in a manner that will have maximum partisan political impact on the national and state elections."

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