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Senator Loren Leman
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Bill Clarifies Right-of-Way Leases Helps Gas Commercialization

(JUNEAU) - Senator Loren Leman (R-Anchorage) introduced legislation today to clarify Alaska's Right-of-Way Leasing Act and assist the permitting process for a North Slope gas pipeline.

Senate Bill 121 identifies when design revision constitutes a "substantial change" in an application and requires restarting the entire administrative process. "Substantial change" is currently undefined in State law. Sen. Leman's bill incorporates policy currently followed by the Department of Natural Resources, but also includes protection for the environment as well as health and safety.

"Commercialization of North Slope gas is a priority of the Legislature and a personal priority for me this session," Leman said. "This legislation maintains the public process in lease applications. However, by clarifying the definition of "substantial" it will minimize unnecessary delays in processing, approving and issuing right-of-way leases."

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Comments from Sen. Leman are available on the Majority Actuality Line, 800-478-6540.