



Alaska State Legislature House and Senate Democrats

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Putting Alaskans First • Moving Alaska Forward 2004

Democratic Legislators' priorities for Alaska's second session of the 23rd Legislature

JUNEAU – House & Senate Democratic legislators today welcomed the beginning of a new legislative session. The legislators renewed a positive platform of “Putting Alaskans First • Moving Alaska Forward.” The group pointed to top priorities of jobs for Alaskans, a strong public education system, sound fiscal policy, a natural gas pipeline, and healthy and safe communities.

“A vibrant Alaska requires a solid economy and adequate funding for public education,” said Senate Democratic Leader Johnny Ellis (D-Anchorage). “These are bedrock Democratic goals.”

“We are committed to providing Alaskans with the best opportunities possible for safety, education, health, and prosperity,” said House Democratic Leader Ethan Berkowitz (D-Anchorage). “This is the Great Land and we can make it even greater.”

Democrats expressed hope that they could work with the administration and legislative Republicans to accomplish these goals. “We’re committed to work with the administration whenever possible, and to hold the Governor accountable when necessary,” said Senate Democratic Whip Kim Elton (D-Juneau).

House Democratic Whip Beth Kerttula (D-Juneau) added, “We have an opportunity to show leadership and tackle the challenges Alaska faces. Building an Alaska natural gas pipeline is critical.”

Representative David Guttenberg (D-Fairbanks) addressed his priorities for the Interior. “I will continue to fight for the longevity bonus, for university funding, and for a natural gas pipeline.”

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Sen. Bettye Davis, Sen. Johnny Ellis, Sen. Kim Elton, Sen. Lyman Hoffman, Sen. Hollis French, Sen. Gretchen Guess, Sen. Georgianna Lincoln, Sen. Donny Olson, Rep. Ethan Berkowitz, Rep. Sharon Cissna, Rep. Harry Crawford, Rep. Eric Croft, Rep. Les Gara, Rep. Max Gruenberg, Rep. David Guttenberg, Rep. Reggie Joule, Rep. Mary Kapsner, Rep. Beth Kerttula, Rep. Albert Kookesh, Rep. Carl Moses