



# Alaska State Legislature House and Senate Democrats

WEB: <http://www.akdemocrats.org>  
CONTACT: Jordan Marshall, Press Secretary  
PHONE: (907) 465-3842 or 321-3682  
FAX: (907) 465-5125  
EMAIL: [press@akdemocrats.org](mailto:press@akdemocrats.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE • January 20, 2004**

---

## **Ruedrich Affair Raises Questions**

### **Democratic Legislators urge Attorney General to appoint special prosecutor**

JUNEAU – Senator Hollis French (D-Anchorage), a former prosecutor, today called on Alaska Attorney General Gregg Renkes to immediately appoint a special prosecutor to determine whether former AOGCC commissioner Randy Ruedrich violated state executive ethics laws by conducting Republican Party of Alaska business on his state computer.

Until recently, Ruedrich served in a dual capacity as a paid Murkowski administration appointee to the Alaska Oil & Gas Conservation Commission while retaining his position as executive director of the Republican Party of Alaska. At issue is whether Ruedrich sent hundreds of partisan e-mails from his computer – potentially a criminal offense – while he worked at the commission.

“A clean investigation is needed to put this issue to rest. When Ruedrich was nominated to the AOGCC by the Governor nine months ago, Democratic legislators spoke out and voted against this appointment,” said Sen. French. “Our warnings went unheeded. Now, the good reputation of the AOGCC and of the Department of Law is in danger while these ethical questions linger.”

An independent investigation is needed, in part, because the attorney general is also a Murkowski appointee. Under Alaska law, the AG is charged with conducting an investigation into these allegations. But our attorney general is appointed. There is a need to be even more alert to indications of favoritism or cronyism with political friends.

“The attorney general is caught in a Catch-22 with the Ruedrich situation,” said Sen. French. “An internal investigation outcome could be viewed as either a vendetta or a whitewash. This investigation must be conducted by someone who isn't connected to the Administration.”

“Alaskans deserve to know whether Ruedrich violated the law,” French concluded. “If he is innocent of wrongdoing, he deserves nothing less than an above-board investigation to clear his name. It's time for Renkes to appoint a special prosecutor to look into the Ruedrich affair.”

###

### ***Putting Alaskans First • Moving Alaska Forward 2004***

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