



# Alaska State Legislature House and Senate Democrats

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE • February 7, 2003**

**CONTACT: Jordan Marshall • (907) 465-3842, Toll-free (888) 465-4919, Cell: 321-3682  
Fax: 465-5125, [Jordan\\_Marshall@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Jordan_Marshall@legis.state.ak.us)**

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## ***Crawford and Croft Resolve to Protect the Dividend***

### ***Putting Alaskans First 2003***

JUNEAU – House Democratic legislators Representative Harry Crawford (D-Anchorage) and Representative Eric Croft (D-Anchorage) today introduced House Joint Resolution 3, a resolution to give the Permanent Fund Dividend permanent constitutional protection.

The bill, HJR-3, takes the exact language of the initiative sponsored by former Governor Jay Hammond and the group Alaskans for Efficient Government, and would require a vote of the people in order for the Legislature to spend any of the Permanent Fund earnings.

“Right now, there is no constitutional protection for the Permanent Fund Dividend, and some legislators are looking to the PFD to bail us out of the state’s fiscal situation. We need to protect the PFD,” said Rep. Crawford.

“So many Alaskans depend on their dividends each October. We want to make sure the Legislature cannot take that money from the citizens of Alaska without permission from those citizens by a vote of the people,” said Rep. Croft.

Lt. Governor Loren Leman rejected the original initiative on the grounds that it was not within the bounds of initiative law, but the legal opinion did not prohibit the content of the petition from being introduced as a constitutional amendment in the legislative process.

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### ***Putting Alaskans First • Moving Alaska Forward 2003***

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