

Alaska State Legislature
House of Representatives
Minority Leader



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News from Juneau

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Greetings from Juneau where the 21st legislature is off to a slow start. Discussions about the state budget are so consuming that other issues have a very low profile.

Last year the budget was important. This year it is the defining issue. Simply, the state has a looming cash flow problem. Revenues and savings accounts, as currently configured, are inadequate to cover government responsibilities. Governor Knowles' proposal to reinstate a state income tax and transfer funds from the Permanent Fund Earnings Reserve has started people talking, which is exactly what we should be doing. Whatever action, or inaction, we take will depend largely on what options Alaskans call for. Please let me know what you think will work the best – I appreciate the advice.

Thanks for staying in touch -- the reality from back home helps considerably. If you have any questions or opinions be sure to contact me. As always, I will do my best to keep you informed.

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