Alaska State Legislature House of Representatives Minority Leader

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Representative Ethan Berkowitz District 13

News from Juneau

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Greetings from Juneau where we are still mulling over budget options. On Tuesday, February 23, House and Senate Democrats will begin open budget discussions with Alaskans. We invite all Alaskans to join us as we engage economists, business people, and fiscal experts in conversations seeking solutions to our current budget crisis. The schedule is as follows:

Tuesday, February 23	3 – 5:15 p.m.	Alaskan Economics 101
Friday, February 26	3 - 5:30 p.m.	Government's Role in the Economy
Thursday, March 4	3:45 – 5:45 p.m.	Plans & Solutions, Part I
Thursday, March 11	3 – 5:15 p.m.	Plans & Solutions, Part II

While each meeting is in Juneau, we will have videoconferencing at the Anchorage Legislative Information Office (716 West Fourth Avenue). Gavel-to-Gavel, cable channel 46, will also broadcast the forums. If you have the opportunity to tune in I encourage you to do so. The press release with more information is located at: http://www.akdemocrats.org/pr-ecodiscus.htm

Part of our goal in holding these discussions is to include Alaskans and encourage them to ask questions and suggest solutions. If you have questions you would like to hear addressed or something occurs to you as you listen or watch, simply e-mail or telephone me and the moderators will present these questions during one of the forums.

More and more suggestions are pouring in -- keep your ideas (and your neighbors') coming! Ideas range from paying for state government with the Permanent Fund and paying dividends with oil royalties to merging with the State of Washington! If you have any questions or opinions about any topic be sure to contact me. As always, I will do my best to keep you informed.

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