

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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State Capitol, Room 418
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
(907) 465-2995 fax: 465-6592



Interim
716 W. 4th Ave. Suite 430
Anchorage, AK 99501
(907) 269-0250 fax: 269-0249

Representative Lesil McGuire District 17

Economic Development, International Trade and Tourism Committee

High-level Khabarovsk Duma Officials to Visit Anchorage

(ANCHORAGE) -- Three members of the Khabarovsk Krai Duma will visit Anchorage June 17-22 for a series of economic meetings and discussions. The group led by Leonid Golub, Vice-Chair of the Duma will be meeting with local economic development specialists and legislators to work on common interests between Alaska and eastern Russia.

Also attending will be Valentin Bukhantsev, Vice-Chair of the Committee on Human Rights, Legitimacy and Social Security, and Duma Consultant Victor Kurlovich, a specialist in regional and local government institutions. The three men hope to learn more from Alaskans about how a democratic government works at the federal, state and local levels. They also plan on visiting local production facilities to better understand business management and organization.

The visit is a follow up to a teleconference held in March between Alaska legislators and Duma members. Russian leaders are very interested in how government can help in the development of private business. Alaska is taking the lead in Russia's continuing process of transforming from total government control of business to a free market economy. A successful economy in Russia is considered to be critical to maintaining a true democratic government.

The visit is being coordinated by the House Economic Development, International Trade and Tourism Committee, chaired by Rep. Lesil McGuire (R-Anchorage). "These visits offer us a great opportunity to meet with leaders from the Khabarovsk region of Russia," McGuire said. "We share many common interests, and these sessions often present learning opportunities for all participants. Democracy is an important part of the new Russia and we have a golden opportunity to show that it is a form of government that works well."

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(Press Opportunity) -- various press opportunities can be made available during the week including one-on-one interviews. Please contact Jim Pound at 269-0250 for details.