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## Senator Robin Taylor District A

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### **Taylor's Tougher Terrorism Laws Head to Finance**

(JUNEAU) - Senator Robin Taylor (R – Wrangell) moved out of the Senate Judiciary Committee Wednesday legislation that would make terrorist acts an aggravating factor in sentencing; thus resulting in harsher penalties and sentences for those crimes.

Taylor introduced [Senate Bill 344](#) as a result of what he calls an “alarming” number of eco-terrorist groups surfacing around the country.

“What we have seen in the last few years is that acts of eco-terrorism and eco-sabotage are not being committed by individuals with a passion for a cause; they are being committed by highly organized groups. Unfortunately, there is nothing in our statutes that addresses acts of terrorism,” said Taylor. “SB 344 provides an avenue for addressing these threats and crimes by making such actions aggravating factors at sentencing and providing harsher penalties.”

Taylor believes that one of our biggest threats of terrorist violence may not come from Afghanistan or Iraq, but from our own crop of domestic terrorists. The FBI confirms a growing trend of radical environmentalist groups using arson, bombs and other forms of sabotage in the name of the environment have swept our country in the past 20 years.

“We need to send a clear message that terrorism is a serious crime and will be treated accordingly,” said Taylor. “SB 344 sends that message and I will not be detracted from it.”

Many eco-terrorist groups such as Earth First, and others, spread their message of contempt and terror by hiding behind the First Amendment, and use newsletters, advertisements and meetings to encourage people to become “Eco-Kamikazes.” The following is a passage from an Earth First Journal:

“Are you terminally ill with a wasting disease? Don't go out with a whimper; go out with a bang! Undertake an eco-kamikaze mission. The possibilities for terminally ill warriors are limitless. Dams from the Columbia and the Colorado to the Connecticut are crying to be blown to smithereens, as are industrial polluters, the headquarters of oil-spilling corporations, fur warehouses, paper mills...To those feeling suicidal, this may be the answer to your dreams...Don't jump off a bridge, blow up a bridge. Who says you can't take it with you?”

**(MORE)**

**Page 2**  
**Eco-Terrorism**  
**March 29, 2002**

“At least nine states have already passed legislation increasing the penalties for these crimes. These acts of terrorism have resulted in loss of life and millions of dollars in damages,” said Senator Taylor. “Has everyone already forgotten the Amtrak derailment or the Uni-bomber? It is past time to strengthen the penalties for such terrorist acts.”

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