



DISTRICT 10 CIRCULAR

Volume 1, Issue 1

Spring 2005

Representative Jay Ramras, 24th Alaska State Legislature



"Working to make Fairbanks a better place to call home"



A word from Representative Jay Ramras

Legislative Goals:

- **Responsible Resource Development including the Natural Gas Pipeline**
- **Bills on the Move:**
- **HB 256: Remembering Ruth Burnett**
- **HB 149: Battling Methamphetamine production**
- **HB 213: TAMS Training**
- **HB 268: Keeping tow truck drivers safe**
- **HB 130: 250,000 acres of land for the University**

The first Legislative session has been incredibly exciting. As either co-chair or member of 4 different committees I've been busy making sure that Fairbanks and District 10 are well represented. My primary concern this session has been as Co-Chair of House Resources which remains Alaska's primary source of revenue. Oil and gas, minerals, timber, land, and fish are all critical to everyone as they make the state of Alaska a better place to live for all of us.

Two very important issues to the Interior have and will continue to be the gas pipeline and the University Lands Bill, which we were able to pass. We hope to see a contract for the gas line from one or all of the three proposals later this summer.

I have also worked on several personal pieces of legislation that our neighbors suggested. One of the most important, is aimed at cutting down on the number of methamphetamine labs by increasing criminal penalties and restricting access to chemicals needed to make it. Additionally, once signed into law, **HB 149** gives our state's court system the tools it needs to prosecute

the manufacturers and sellers of meth.

I also introduced legislation **HB 109** this year to require hearing tests of newborn babies. It has been proven that early testing and intervention can often lessen or prevent a lifetime of problems.

During a conversation earlier this year I learned that a public safety issue was not being addressed. Law requires a driver to slow down and move into the other lane when approaching an emergency vehicle that is stopped and has its lights on. That law did not apply to tow trucks or animal control vehicles while the drivers are doing their jobs. With the passage of **HB 268** they now are.

There has been a lot of talk this year about the proposed Fairbanks fish hatchery. While the primary argument has been how to pay for it I also thought it was important to name it. Sometimes when a proposal receives a name a new interest develops in making it a reality, which proved to be true. **HB 256** will be signed into law by Governor Murkowski naming the hatchery for former Mayor Ruth Burnett. Ruth was a primary mover in developing the idea of a fish hatchery, and worked very hard to secure federal funds for research and plan-

ning. I also worked closely with Mayor Jim Whitaker to assure that the hatchery did not displace the baseball fields.

I would also like to thank my staff who have made my first session so successful. Their behind the scenes efforts are responsible for making my job seem so much easier.

Jim Pound, my Chief of Staff brought his years of legislative and media experience into an otherwise freshman office. He and I have been assisted greatly by Jane Pierson. This is Jane's first year in the legislature, but her 15 years of Alaska paralegal experience has allowed her to tackle tough issues with her clear understanding of Alaska Law.

Two other members of the staff also play important roles this session. Amberlee Query, answered the phone, maintained the schedule and assured we are where we're suppose to be.

We also had the benefit of a University of Alaska intern. Brandon Maitlen devoted his last 120 days of education learning the legislative process. He graduates this year.

Its been a great first session and I look forward to continuing to serve in the future.