

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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First Meeting of Alaska Information Infrastructure Task Force

(ANCHORAGE) – The Alaska Information Infrastructure Task Force held its organization meeting earlier today. The Task Force, made up of members of the community and government were appointed by presiding officers Senator Gene Therriault (R-North Pole) and Representative Pete Kott (R-Eagle River).

“Alaska is perfectly positioned to be an important part of the global economic future. It is vital to our state that we all have access to health care, education, government services, homeland security and economic development through the use of broadband telecommunications services,” said Speaker Kott.

Created by HCR 32 during the 23rd Legislature, the Task Force will review and analyze current infrastructure, conduct an analysis of long-term needs, define the state’s role, act as advocates to industry and government, and develop a long-term strategic plan for all Alaskans.

Dr. H.A. “Red” Boucher and Commissioner Craig Campbell were selected by fellow members of the Task Force to serve as Co-Chairs.

“This is not a widget committee, but a long-range Alaska policy initiative,” said Dr. Boucher.

Representative Reggie Joule (D-Kotzebue) said, “It is important that we empower people through information management, as opposed to enabling them, and allow them to embrace change, not fear it.” He went on to say, “There are great possibilities but without a plan there are many missed opportunities.”

The next meeting of the Task Force will take place on December 3, 2004 at 10:00 A.M. at the Anchorage Legislative Information Office. The public is encouraged to attend.

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