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House Joint Resolution 2 — Sponsor Statement

“Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the State of Alaska relating to an appropriation limit.”

Governor Jay Hammond is best known as the father of the Permanent Fund, but in his final year in office he requested a Constitutional amendment be placed before the voters to adopt an appropriations limit for the State of Alaska. The legislature placed the question on the ballot and the people responded, approving the amendment (Article IX, Section 16) in 1982.

The people of Alaska voted in 1981, however as Alaska looks to the future, with the challenges of reduced revenue and tough budget choices, it is time to reset the appropriations limit to a sustainable level.

Alaska needs to fund the government it can afford, and not the government we want.

The State of Alaska is facing tough fiscal times and the legislature is faced with difficult choices relating to budgets and spending this year and as we move forward.

HJR 2 calls for resetting the appropriations limit to a sustainable level for the future of all Alaskans. The current limit, adjusted for inflation, is approximately \$10.1 billion dollars.

I respectfully ask my colleagues to support this legislation so all Alaskans can be heard as it relates to government spending.

If you have additional questions please contact Darrell Breese in my office at 465-4859.