



NEWS

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Alaska Legislators Demand Congress to Take a Vote on Judicial Nominations

Alaska legislature passes resolution calling for Congress to vote on the President's Judicial Nominees.

WASHINGTON- A resolution calling on Congress to work for a vote on all judicial nominations passed in the Alaska legislature. Today, Americans for Tax Reform (ATR), the nation's leading taxpayer advocacy group, praised the member of the Alaska Judiciary Committee for their willingness to work for justice. Through introducing a resolution urging Congress to work to allow a timely vote on the floor of the United States Senate on all judicial nominations, Alaska's Judiciary Committee is using the power of Alaska's influence to shape congressional debate.

ATR's State Legislative Advisory Project, launched in 2001, is an effort to help give state legislators a louder voice in federal policymaking. In the project's first year, twenty-seven states stepped up to pass resolutions urging their congressional delegations to support the Economic Growth Tax Relief Reconciliation Act. As of May, 2004, state legislators have already introduced 160 different resolutions in 40 legislative bodies in 27 states.

Taxpayer advocate Grover Norquist, president of ATR, praised the committee's efforts. **"Americans for Tax Reform applauds Alaska legislators for strengthening the voices of all state legislators working to bring critical issues to the forefront of congressional debate."**

The Judiciary Committee's resolution encourages the congressional delegates to vote on six of President Bush's nominees that were reported favorably by the Committee on the Judiciary. As 63 percent of President Bush's Court of Appeal nominations and 42 percent of his District Court nominations have been to fill seats classified as "judicial emergencies" by the United States Courts, Alaska is calling for action.

"The United States Senate is being held hostage by the agenda of an extreme minority," said Norquist, **"It is time for the minority of United States Senators using dilatory tactics to prevent a vote to grow up and work on solving problems, not obstructing a constitutional process."**

Americans for Tax Reform (ATR) is a non-partisan coalition of taxpayers and taxpayer groups who oppose all federal, state and local tax increases. For more information or to arrange an interview, please contact Jonathan Collegio at (202) 785-0266 or at jcollegio@atr.org.