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For more information contact:

Becky Gay at 269-3024

Governor reappoints Mike Barry to AIDEA board

ANCHORAGE -- Governor Frank H. Murkowski has reappointed Mike Barry to the board of the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority (AIDEA). Barry currently serves as the board chair, a position he has held since being appointed to his first term in January 2003.

Barry previously served as a senior officer at the National Bank of Alaska. His 20-year stint with the bank gave him a statewide perspective, said Murkowski. Following his banking career, Barry was involved in real estate development and property management. He was a developer of Anchorage's 5th Avenue Mall and managed the Dimond Center.

"I thank Governor Murkowski for his support of AIDEA," said Barry. "We are putting assets back to work by clearing AIDEA's portfolio of properties like the ASI seafood plant."

During his first term on the Board, Barry chaired the 23rd Legislature's Energy Policy Task Force. He said the group, comprised mostly of utility managers, made far-reaching recommendations for state energy policy. These included establishing a Unified System Operator for Railbelt utilities to acquire and operate energy assets that the state currently owns.

Barry said the task force also supported full-funding of the Power Cost Equalization program, a recommendation which has become reality in the 24th Legislature.

Barry is also the Alaska co-chair of the Taiwan-Alaska Trade & Investment Cooperation Council (TATICC). He said that through TATICC he is working to strengthen economic ties between Alaska and Taiwan.

"I trust Mike Barry's business judgment and I am pleased to reappoint him to the AIDEA Board," Murkowski said.

Barry's new term extends through June 30, 2008.

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