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A Communication From
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Sponsor Statement **HB 3**

“An Act relating to voter identification at the polls; and relating to the counting of absentee and questioned ballots.”

Voting is the foundation of our democratic republic. The cement that holds this foundation together is voters being who they say they are. That’s what HB3 is all about. That’s why HB3 is important

HB3 simply requires photo identification before casting a ballot at the polling place. That’s a pro-active measure against voter fraud. Currently, all a person is required to present before voting is something as simple as a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement or paycheck. That’s inadequate protection of the voting process, and is an invitation for voter fraud.

Photo ID is ubiquitous in Alaska and everywhere else. We need photo ID to buy alcohol, tobacco, enter a federal building, at the airport, during banking transactions, to drive a car, and more.

HB3 provides accommodations for persons who may have difficulty obtaining a photo ID. They still may vote if they can provide two forms official non-photo ID such as a birth certificate, social security card, hunting/fishing license, or tribal ID. If two forms of official non-photo ID are not available, then a person may still cast a vote if two polling place workers know the person and that person is a registered voter in that district.

HB3 strikes a balance between a pro-active strengthening of our current system while respecting Alaska’s unique voting population.