



JUNEAU REENTRY COALITION

*Promoting Success After Incarceration
To Reduce Recidivism and Increase Public Safety*

March 26, 2026

Representative Donna Mears
Alaska State Capitol Building
Juneau, Alaska 99801

RE: Support for HB 189 – Criminal Convictions Overturned; Receive Past PFD

Dear Representative Mears,

The Juneau Reentry Coalition fully supports HB 189, which addresses a critical issue of fairness regarding the Alaska Permanent Fund Dividend (PFD). This bill ensures that an Alaskan whose conviction has been formally vacated, reversed, or dismissed is not permanently penalized by missing out on a resource that belongs to each citizen of this state.

When a conviction is overturned or vacated, the legal system has determined that the original judgment was incorrect. This individual can lose out on years of dividends that he or she would have received if not wrongly incarcerated. HB 189 rightly seeks to correct this by allowing the individual to receive past PFDs to which he or she should have been entitled had the wrongful conviction not occurred. Although we can't go back and return the time lost to this individual and his or her family, this is the least we can do to "right the wrong."

The PFD is the resident's share of Alaska's resource wealth. If a court decides an individual was improperly convicted, it is a matter of basic justice that their economic rights be restored for the period in state's custody. Passing HB 189 demonstrates that the Alaska State Legislature stands for fairness, accuracy, and the legal principle that a wrongfully convicted citizen should be made whole again to the best of the state's ability. A wrongfully convicted individual deserves PFD backpay in the very least.

The Juneau Reentry Coalition supports HB 189 to ensure that no additional harm is imposed on an innocent Alaskan.

Sincerely,

Tim Hunt
Coordinator
Juneau Reentry Coalition