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Guttenberg: Better regs needed on Slope

by FDNMstaff

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— Posted by Christopher Eshleman, Daily News-Miner staff

A Fairbanks Democrat just pitched a plan to give the state greater regulatory oversight over North Slope oil infrastructure, saying it would help smaller companies and increase competition on the slope.

Rep. David Guttenberg, D-Fairbanks, [said the changes would help smaller firms gain access](#) to the region's network of feeder pipelines and processing facilities. He said current state law falls well short of giving newer companies a fair crack at getting raw crude to the pipeline at a reasonable cost.

Guttenberg said the bill would treat certain separation stations and facilities more like a regulated, private utility system. State regulators would look to ensure the owners see a fair return on investment when new companies gain access.

"This is a complicated issue that insiders have known about for years," Guttenberg said in a statement. "Alaska needs to address it if we want to grow investment and increase competition on the Slope. Alaskans have a vested interest in making sure our resources have a fair chance to get to market."

House Democratic Reps. Berta Gardner, of Anchorage, and Beth Kerttula, of Juneau, backed the plan. House Speaker Mike Chenault sent the measure, House Bill 138, to labor and resource committees for review.

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