

# AkPIRG calls on House to Kill Soft Money Bill - *AGAIN*

- Bill will SUPER-SIZE Political Party Contributions
- 11th Hour Tactic allows virtually no Public Input

AkPIRG AGAIN called on the Alaska House to stop a last minute effort to open the floodgates to soft money in Alaska politics. HB 94 has been totally revamped to allow unlimited donations to political parties. These donations were stopped in Alaska in response to a ballot initiative in the mid-1990s.

“This is outrageous that the Governor would add the soft money bill to the special session,” stated AkPIRG's Steve Cleary. “If the issue was so important, why did it get introduced on the 116<sup>th</sup> day of a 120 day legislative session,” Cleary added referring to the fact that the soft money amendments to the bill were not introduced until Friday, May 6<sup>th</sup>. “A special session should not be an excuse to rush controversial bills through without public input.”

“This is government at its worst. Eleventh hour tricks to bring a flood of anonymous, corporate cash to party coffers – that's not why our legislators are in Juneau,” stated AkPIRG's Steve Cleary. “Sen. Therriault totally revamped the bill without public input, claiming that the public could input in other committees and then he voted to bypass those committees. The public is being completely left out of this process.”

AkPIRG is backing an initiative that would bring back the Campaign Finance Reforms that the legislature erased two years ago. “AkPIRG helped collect over 36,000 signatures to let Alaskans decide to get big money out of Alaska politics, but Sen. Therriault's efforts will let SUPER-SIZED money into Alaska politics,” Cleary added.

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