

AKPIRG asks for spending limits

The Alaska Public Interest Research Group has asked all candidates for seats in the Alaska Legislature to observe voluntary spending limits.

Citing overall increases of 800 percent in the cost of winning campaigns between 1974 and 1984, AKPIRG has recommended limits of \$27,000 for House races and \$40,000 for Senate races, including primary and general races.

AKPIRG President John Suddock noted in a letter to candidates that even those limits represent 25 percent increases over 1982 spending levels.

"AKPIRG has consistently fought for controls on the obviously excessive spending that has come to dominate Alaska's campaigns," Suddock said. "We want the candidates to go on record in support of maintaining the basic democratic principle of one per-

son, one vote that is so seriously damaged by the influence of the economically powerful who finance today's campaigns."

The AKPIRG letter promised to follow up on the candidates' responses and publicize candidates' positions on the challenge.

In addition to the self-imposed voluntary limit, the letter calls on candidates to "renounce independent expenditures on your behalf as being unnecessary, uncontrollable and fundamentally undemocratic intrusions on the equal access right of all to the one person, one vote principle."

AKPIRG is a non-profit, non-partisan organization with more than 2,000 members statewide that works on consumer, socio-economic and public interest issues such as good government.