

No leadership

We will be the first to admit that we don't admire and respect Alaska Rep. Ramona Barnes of Anchorage as much as one should admire and respect a member of the elected House.

But we don't.

We have found the honorable Ms. Barnes' stands on almost everything from subsistence hunting rights in the villages to smoking in elevators to be simply and understandably wrong.

The House of Representatives majority leader did herself proud this week, however, when she decided to strip House minority representatives of their \$250,000 operating budget.

Her reason can be termed very simply punitive. The House majority has decided to spend \$250,000 of state (meaning your) money to sue the governor because he forced the House to meet to vote on confirming the Governor's cabinet which had been held "hostage" for months while legislators engaged in a stupid and counter-productive power struggle with Sheffield and the Senate.

Sheffield upped the ante when he vetoed \$250,000 from the House leadership budget — the same amount allocated to pay for the lawsuit attorney.

Barnes then stripped the \$250,000 from the minority, saying Sheffield had done the cutting.

She and anyone following this sordid saga knows that that wasn't the case and that this was simply another irresponsible abuse of power on the part of those few people "leading" the "leadership."

This is not an election year for Ms. Barnes but we wish it were. We can only hope that her constituents remember the actions of the House majority and how the legislative process and democratic action has been driven into the ground with this leadership.