

Long chosen for post

Governor Tony Knowles announced his selection of whaling captain and former City of Barrow Mayor Don Long as his choice to serve as representative for the North Slope and Northwest Arctic House District 37.

Pending confirmation by the House Democratic caucus, Long, 51, will replace Rep. Eileen MacLean. MacLean, 47, announced last month that she would resign Jan. 12, citing health problems. Knowles praised the outgoing representative for her dedication and work on issues affecting her district and the state.

"Eileen MacLean has done an outstanding job as representative, and I share her confidence that Don Long will continue the tradition of strong leadership from the North Slope," Knowles said. "Don was born in Noatak, raised in Kotzebue, lived in Point Hope, and served as mayor of Barrow. Nobody has a broader understanding of issues facing the North Slope and Northwest Arctic district. He's also been a leader in the sobriety movement."

A whaling captain, Long served two terms as mayor of Barrow, and worked previously for the North Slope Borough, Arctic Slope Regional Corporation and Barrow area utilities. Long chaired the Governor's public safety transition team and was appointed to the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Advisory Board.