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Alaska Retirement Management Board Investment Returns 18.56 Percent for FY2014

Juneau – For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014 Public Employee's Retirement System and the Teacher's Retirement System both earned 18.56%, exceeding the Alaska Retirement Management Board's strategic policy benchmark target return of 17.20%.

Gail Schubert, chair of the board, noted "the investment returns are a wonderful conclusion to a year of collaboration between the Alaska Retirement Management Board and Governor Parnell who requested an additional \$3 billion contribution to the funds in FY 2015 which was approved by the Legislature." Chair Schubert further stated, "We thank the Governor and the Legislature for their confidence in the ARMB. We will continue to focus on the execution of our long-term investment policies as we strive to meet the obligations of Alaska's public retirement systems."

Revenue Commissioner Angela Rodell noted the strong investment performance of the retirement funds relative to public retirement systems' peers, "Our returns this year place our pension plans in the top 10% of public plans in the U.S. They are in the top quartile over two years and in the top third over three years." Over \$2 billion of the Board's assets, managed internally by Revenue staff, are invested in a fixed income strategy that outperformed the benchmark. Additionally, the Board's recent addition of an internally managed equity yield strategy contributed to the strong performance by outperforming the benchmark with a return of over 20%."

Gary Bader, chief investment officer for the Department of Revenue noted the strong performance of the underlying assets, "These returns reflect the strong performance in the equity markets and real assets. All asset classes contributed to the bottom line. Domestic equities earned 25.8% during the year, with international equities up 23.4% and private equity achieving a 24.2% return. Absolute return earned 6.5% while fixed income earned 5.1%.

On June 30, 2014 the defined benefit assets of PERS and TRS exceeded \$20.7 billion. An additional \$3 billion will be added during FY 2015.
