



BUSINESS to BUSINESS

ALASKA CHAMBER

JUNE 2018

Open House with the Dean of the House



TOP LEFT: U.S. Congressman Don Young meets with representatives from the Southcentral Foundation. From left to right they are Special Assistant to the Chief of Staff Chris Bryant, Senior Director of Resource and Development Jaylene Petersen-Nyren, and former Manager of Development Joshua Franks. **TOP RIGHT:** Young greets Alaska Native Health Board President/CEO Verné Boerner. **SECOND ROW LEFT:** Chamber members and Young share a laugh. **SECOND ROW RIGHT:** Young visits with Chamber member and State House District 26 candidate Albert Fogle. (Photos/Oscar Avellaneda-Cruz)



From the President: Celebrate 65 years in the Golden Heart City

By Curtis W. Thayer

Alaska Chamber President & CEO

This year marks a milestone anniversary for the Alaska Chamber. Join us as we celebrate 65 years of pro-business advocacy and grassroots economic development in this last great frontier!

The best way to celebrate is in person with like-minded peers from industries across the state. So save the date for October 23-25 and join us in Fairbanks for our annual Fall Forum. It's been a few years since The Golden Heart City has played host to the big show, and Fairbanks never fails to impress.

Given the importance of the upcoming election cycle, the Gubernatorial Debate is sure to be a one of the event highlights. I always enjoy having first-hand information directly from those seeking public service before the Policy Forum on the last day of the event. The Policy Forum is the culmination of months worth of work by Chamber members, the Legislative Affairs Committee, and dozens of subject matter experts from Alaska's business community.



THAYER

Members like you establish the Chamber's slate of legislative positions and priorities, and the Policy Forum is where that imperative work is conducted. Well-crafted policy positions take time, so get involved early! The submission period for policy positions extends from Friday, June 1 to Friday, August 3. Get involved, and be part of the Chamber's important pro-business mission.

But the Fall Forum isn't all work. It's a chance to explore a wonderful and historic Alaska community. It's an opportunity to share experiences and recharge your professional batteries. And it's the celebratory occasion where we honor the top individuals and companies that call Alaska home.

Each year, as part of the Alaska Chamber's Top Business Awards program the Chamber recognizes outstanding individuals and business members for the accomplishments and contributions they make to our statewide economy.

The award nomination period opens on Friday, June 1 until Friday, August 3. I encourage you to consider the mentors and leaders, companies, chambers that impact your life. The Fall Forum is our opportunity to honor a job well done — our

chance to say "thank you!"

In addition to our historic award categories — the Bill Bivin Small Business of the Year Award, the Local Chamber of the Year Award, and the coveted William A. Egan Outstanding Alaskan of the Year Award — we're adding a new award category this fall. It is, the Rita Sholton Large Business of the Year Award.

The Chamber is pleased to expand upon the current slate of award categories and include the Rita Sholton Large Business of the Year Award which opens up nominations for member businesses with more than 100 employees, and who have been in business in Alaska for a minimum of five years.

We have so many talented, inspiring companies that have simply grown beyond the scope of the Bill Bivin Small Business of the Year Award. These tremendous organizations deserve recognition, and I'm excited to see your nominations.

Sixty-five years is a good long run. It's two-and-a-half marathons worth of annual effort on behalf of the companies and employers that make lives and livelihoods possible in Alaska. So it's my sincere wish that you'll join me in celebrating this important anniversary, and I look forward to many more to come.

OUR VISION & MISSION

To be the leading voice advancing Alaska Business. | To promote a healthy business environment in Alaska.

From the Chair: Lead by example when it comes to voting

By Cory Baggen
Board Chair, Alaska Chamber

My family founded Samson Tug and Barge back in the early 1900s. Every election since then has influenced the people and the communities we serve.

Our hometown of Sitka might not be suffering from lava flows like Hawaii, but we do have schools and homes threatened by potentially disastrous mudslides. We may not be Disneyland, but we are reliant upon thousands of tourists and the commerce they bring to our community.

Who we elect to public office can have profound and lasting consequences for Alaska, our communities, our businesses, and our families. Poorly crafted ballot initiatives can have a dreadful impact on local economies and take years or decades to unwind.

Elections matter in the best of times. At others, they reshape the future of our state. The ballot box is our single, best chance to control that future.

So how can we as employees, managers, and owners of businesses meaningfully impact elections at all levels of government? For starters, we can vote.

Just over 56 percent of registered Alaskan voters cast a ballot in the 2014 general election. Today, there are roughly 280,000 Alaskans' working in the private sector. Imagine if Alaska employers created an environment that empowered every worker to exercise their right to vote.

What a difference that would make!

We need to lead by example when it comes to voting. For obvious reasons, we shouldn't instruct our coworkers and employees on what or who to vote for.

Surely, there are organizations that do pressure members to vote a certain way, but that sort of thing has no place in a profitable, ethical Alaska business. However, we should be visibly active when it comes to voting and voter education.

The upcoming primary election is on August 21. The next general election is in November on the 6.

Please make a plan for these dates. Ensure that workers and their managers create a schedule that gives everyone a chance to get to the polls without risk to their responsibilities and work hours.

Encourage coworkers to carpool to polling locations or local ballot collection centers.

Charter a shuttle or bus to ensure that everyone shares an equal opportunity to vote, regardless of his or her transportation needs.

Every workplace has its own unique set of logistical challenges. But they can be overcome if we invest just a little bit of time to understand the voting day, absentee, and mail-in options that are available.

We can also take the time to make educated votes. I am so grateful that organizations like the Alaska Chamber host informational seminars on critical policy positions and ballot initiatives. I wouldn't expect a slope worker to understand the delicate balance of herring management in Southeast Alaska any more than I understand permitting processes in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

At the local, state, and national level, there are resources dedicated to educating voters on issues with tremendous social and economic impact.

I won't let anyone tell me what or who I should vote for. However, I welcome concise information from subject matter experts, particularly on issues that I know have a reaching and lasting impact on Alaska.

It is entirely appropriate to make that information available to our coworkers and employees, as well. I believe that everyone is entitled to vote with understanding and knowledge, and it's clear we can't rely on social media, TV, and radio ads for that.

The last thing I want to mention is financial support for candidates and initiatives that you believe in. Here at home, I know the candidates and the issues. I make contributions where I know that it's needed and will make a difference.

When it comes to certain statewide and national issues, I'm glad that we have the Alaska Business Political Action Committee (ABPAC) to help support pro-business candidates.

It's important to me that we have pro-business policies and public officials throughout the state. I want an Alaska that is responsibly and ethically growing as an economic powerhouse! My contribution to ABPAC allows me to mirror the positive, educated impact I have at home throughout the state.

This election season is a big one. Get out and vote! Make a plan to ensure that your coworkers can vote, too. Educate yourself on the issues and share that information with the important people in your life. Together we can continue to make Alaska a great place to live and work. Enjoy your busy summer!



BAGGEN



Zoe Buck holds on to her mother, Julie Buck, as she votes in the 2014 election at the Alaska Zoo polling place in Anchorage. Chamber Chair Cory Baggen writes that employers have a role to play in encouraging their employees to participate in the election process. (Photo/Ted S. Warren/AP)

Save the Date Plan to Participate!

2018 Member Appreciation Reception

Monday, July 23

Anchorage

2018 Alaska Business Week

July 14-21

Anchorage

July 30-August 3

Mat-Su

2018 Fall Forum

October 23-25

Fairbanks

Mark your calendars and check our website for more information at alaskachamber.com.



FALL FORUM

October 23-25

Westmark
Fairbanks Hotel &
Conference Center

Join us in The Golden Heart City for Alaska's premier business symposium and **celebrate 65 years** of pro-business advocacy and grassroots economic development in this last great frontier!



CONFERENCE + POLICY FORUM + TOP BUSINESS AWARDS

Chamber advocacy did well over 30th Legislative Session

By Ben Mulligan
Vice President, Alaska Chamber

I know you were all looking forward to endless special sessions like last year, but it looks like when the Legislature adjourned on May 13 that really was the end. No one is talking about work left undone.

With legislators looking at races this August and November they're now focusing on campaigning.

So how did the Alaska Chamber's advocacy efforts stack up during the 30th Alaska State Legislature go? Overall, the Chamber did well. Over the course of two legislative sessions 15 of the 20 bills we supported passed and 18 of the 20 bills we opposed did not.

A piece of legislation that the Chamber supported that will absolutely have a positive impact on Alaska is House Bill 331, a bill to pay outstanding tax credits to independent oil companies.

By passing a mechanism to pay off its obligations, the State of Alaska will restore its credibility and reputation. This in turn will reinvigorate investment in the oil and gas sector.

A bill that would have had the exact opposite on Alaska's economy was House Bill 115, the bill to establish an income tax. Instituting an income tax would neither reduce State spending to a sustainable level nor restructure the Permanent Fund to protect the dividend while including controlled use of the earnings reserve account.

Placing this burden on individuals and their businesses would only exacerbate our current economic situation.

From the start of this last legislative session we worked alongside a legislator to advance one of the Chamber's top state priori-

ties, workers' compensation reform. Through a lengthy process we focused on issues that the business community identified as needing to be addressed.

The Chamber found a staunch ally in Senator Cathy Giessel. Together we got to work in drafting the language that would eventually become Senate Bill 112. That process took almost all the entire 2017 legislative session.

Between the introduction of SB 112 in April of 2017 and the start of the 2018 legislative session we reached out to various interested parties in conjunction with Senator Giessel's efforts.

We knew our efforts to progress any meaningful workers' compensation reform through the Legislature wasn't going to be easy, but we came in prepared for opposition. What threw us was the staunch opposition we received from Senators that we've worked well with in the past.

Through a lot of outreach and hard work we managed to get SB 112 out of the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee albeit a very slimmed down version. Though we were pushing for SB 112, the Administration was pushing an alternative workers' compensation bill, House Bill 79, and moving along was Representative Andy Josephson's House Bill 38.

Once all three were in the Senate Finance Committee we came together with the Associated General Contractors of Alaska, Alaska Trucking Association, and the Workers' Compensation Committee of Alaska to discuss our options as we had heard the Committee might condense any workers' compensation measures into one bill.

The State's budget continues to remain a concern to the Chamber. For years we've advocated for a reduction in state spending to a sustainable level, and we saw the State's



The Alaska House is shown during a break in a floor session on Saturday, May 12 in Juneau. (AP Photo/Becky Bohrer)

spending of Undesignated General Funds (UGF) hit the benchmark the Chamber set of \$4.5 billion in UGF.

However, from there the State has increased its UGF spending and we're currently back up to \$5.5 billion for the upcoming fiscal year starting July 1.

As we look back at the legislative session people may be already wondering what will happen next year, and right now that would be hard to begin to predict. So far, we've seen a few legislators resign and even more announce their retirement.

This means we'll see a large influx of freshmen legislators and possibly whole new majority and minority caucuses as they look to organize before the 2019 legislative session.

Whatever the outcome, the Chamber will continue to advocate for a positive business climate in Alaska by educating and informing our elected officials on issues important to Alaska's business community.

Ben Mulligan is the Vice President for the Alaska Chamber. He can be reached by phone at (907) 278-2729 or by email at bmulligan@alaskachamber.com.

“Let's build a stronger economy.”

WITH NEARLY A CENTURY of experience, no one knows how to meet the challenges of doing business in the Last Frontier like First National Bank Alaska.

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We Believe in Alaska



David McCarthy
49th State Brewing Co.

Aurora Agee
Loan Officer

Jason Motyka
49th State Brewing Co.

2018 Community Outreach Trip to Valdez a huge hit!



TOP: Alaska Chamber members and guests visit the Valdez Marine Terminal at the end of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System. **SECOND ROW LEFT:** A tanker being loaded with North Slope crude. **SECOND ROW RIGHT:** From left to right: Renee Limoge Reeve, Robyn Engibous, Lindsey Whitt, Shauna Hegna, and Dena Lythgoe enjoy an evening cruise in Port Valdez. **THIRD ROW LEFT:** Chamber board members conduct their second meeting of the year at the Totem Hotel and Suites. **THIRD ROW RIGHT:** Chamber members and guests visit with the crew of the U.S. Coast Guard Station Valdez. (Photos/Alaska Chamber Staff)

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Building a Cycle of Business Mentorship

CLARESSA ULLMAYER - ALASKA BUSINESS WEEK 2012 & 2018



By Andy Rogers

For the better part of a decade, Alaska Business Week (ABW) has been teaching young people from all parts of the state how to run a business profitably and ethically.

Hundreds of students from village communities to urban centers have completed the intensive business week simulation. And in 2017, all that entrepreneurship training came full-circle in a very exciting way.

Claressa Ullmayer was a driven, motivated young woman in 2012. She interned for Senator Lisa Murkowski after completing her senior year at Juneau-Douglas High School. After the internship, she rolled straight into ABW and took the Fairbanks business week camp by storm.

During the week of camp, myself and the other volunteer mentors frequently discuss the advantages and challenges that students bring to camp. ABW participants are arranged into ‘companies’ and each group assigns responsibility for things like production, sales, and human resources to specific team members.

As one of the older students, and due to her take-no-prisoners attitude, Claressa stepped into her company’s Chief Executive Officer role. But I clearly remember discussions about Claressa as a candidate for her group’s Chief Financial Officer role.

She was a strong and experienced young leader, but it was clear that she had a passion for the mathy side of business management. She worked with market forecasts to juggle inventory and production numbers.

She borrowed aggressively to grow the company’s production facilities. And she led the charge on one heck of a financial review in front of a roomful of adults from the Alaska business community at the end of the week.

Claressa’s performance at ABW was in itself a success for the program, and that would be a fine

place for her story to end. But business week had kindled a new fire. She had planned to take a gap year after graduating high school, but instead parlayed her new passion into a degree in accounting and started doing taxes (for fun!) for her classmates and friends.

She attracted the interest of some prestigious firms, and is currently completing a graduate program as an intern for KPMG in Philadelphia. But she hasn’t forgotten Alaska, and she hasn’t forgotten ABW.

In December of 2017, Claressa became the first ABW graduate to

In December of 2017, Claressa became the first ABW graduate to return to the program as a business mentor for a new generation of entrepreneurial young Alaskans. The importance of that landmark step cannot be overstated!

return to the program as a business mentor for a new generation of entrepreneurial young Alaskans. The importance of that landmark step cannot be overstated!

The obvious goal of ABW is to prepare young Alaskans to enter the workforce not just as job seekers but as job creators – as Alaska’s future employers.

But how important is it that we have a sustained culture of business mentorship?

The statewide ABW program has a fantastic team of supporting sponsors and volunteers. Moreover, regional business communities are

banding together to bring entrepreneurship camps directly to their hometown students.

And with hundreds of ABW graduates ascending into young careers, our investment in entrepreneurship is developing into a cycle of pro-business mentorship.

It’s time to send the next group of Claressas to ABW. Registration is open now for the statewide camp at APU (July 14-21) and for MatSu students in Wasilla (July 30-August 3).

Register at alaskabusinessweek.com and actively grow the cycle of mentorship in Alaska!

Member Milestones



The Alaska Chamber would like to recognize the following Chamber investors celebrating milestone anniversaries this quarter. We appreciate their ongoing commitment to Alaska and their investment in the Chamber – together we are the voice of Alaska business!

30 YEARS

Bristol Bay Native Corporation

15 YEARS

Sysco Food Services of Alaska

5 YEARS

A & A Roofing
Alaska Rubber Group
Alaska State Hospital and Nursing Home Association
Central Peninsula Hospital

Cruz Companies Alaska
Denali Brewing Company
Medical Park Family Care, Inc.
PeaceHealth Ketchikan Medical Center

1 YEAR

Alaska Global, Inc.
CVS Health
Denali Commercial
Juneau I LLC
KJardell Company
Lockheed Martin Corporation
Peak Trust Company

Welcome New Members



Albert Fogle

Born and raised in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Albert Fogle first came to Alaska in 2005 when he was stationed at Fort Wainwright Army Base. With service in his blood, today he is a State House candidate for District 26. Visit him online at fogleforalaska.com.

Alyeska International, Inc. dba Alaska Sleep Clinic

Established in 2002, Alyeska International, Inc. is the first independent diagnostic testing facility sleep clinic in Alaska and has grown to four locations and 13 beds. Alaska Sleep Clinic is the most comprehensive sleep clinic in Alaska. Visit them online at alaskasleep.com.

Analytical Consulting Group, LLC

Founded to meet the rising need of supportive and consulting services in the financial/accounting market across Alaska, Analytical Consulting Group (ACG) provides temporary and long-term services to companies of all sizes. With over 30 years of combined experience, AGC is an excellent choice for all outsourcing, consulting, and employee training. Visit them online at acgak.com.

Boom Media

Boom Media offer a variety of photography and video services. From wedding photography to commercial video options, Boom Media can meet your audio and visual needs. Visit them online at boommediaak.com.

Catalyst Marine Engineering, LLC

Located in Seward, Alaska, Catalyst Marine Engineering, LLC (CME) is a vessel support facility specializing in high-quality marine welding, fabrication, and logistics. From vessel support work to land-based operations, CME oversees the entire project ensuring efficient, timely production. Visit them online at catalyst-marine.com.

Clear Smiles Alaska

Located in Anchorage, Clear Smiles Alaska provides professional, experienced, affordable, friendly, and quality orthodontic care. For over 35 years, Dr. John Sparaga has been practicing orthodontics and Invisalign exclusively for the last 10 years. They no longer use metal braces to treat patients. If you have spaces, crowding, misalignment, an over or underbite, and are in need of orthodontic care, Clear Smiles Alaska can help. Visit them online at clearsmilesalaska.com.

Don Abel Building Supply, Inc.

Welcome new Alaska Chamber member, Don Abel Building Supply, Inc.! As a leading supplier of commercial and residential building supplies to professional builders and do-it-yourselfers in Southeast Alaska, Don Abel Building Supply is proud to offer building supplies to both commercial and residential customers throughout Alaska. Visit them at donabel.biz.

The Huntley Team

The Huntley Team (THT) is a Real Estate Team of experienced REALTORS® dedicated to helping you buy and sell homes in Anchorage, Eagle River, Wasilla, Palmer, Talkeetna, Big Lake, Houston and beyond. THT is one of the leading Realtor® teams in Alaska and also have branches in Arizona and Colorado for all your real estate needs. Specializing in new construction, resale, HUD, REO, and more. Visit them on-

line at searchyouralaskahome.com.

King Economics Group

A nonpartisan economics firm, King Economics Group specializes in Alaska's economy. Through impartial analyses, they provide updates and projections of the health of Alaska's economy for business owners and government officials to make informed decisions. Visit them online at kingeconomicsgroup.com.

Matanuska Telephone Association, Inc.

Established in 1953 and 100% locally owned, Matanuska Telephone Association, Inc. (MTA) keeps you in touch and entertained at home and while you're away with their local, long distance, wireless products and services; high-speed and wireless internet; Avaya and Centrex business phone systems; digital television; and directory services. Visit them online at mtasolutions.com.

Maxim Healthcare Services

Maxim Healthcare Services offers a wide variety of home health services, Maxim provides the assistance needed at home to maintain a safe and independent lifestyle. Visit them online at maximhealthcare.com.

Must Read Alaska

Must Read Alaska is an e-news site of people, politics, policy, culture, and happenings in Alaska. It is edited by Suzanne Downing, who first landed in Alaska in 1969, and has called it home ever since. Visit Must Read Alaska online mustreadalaska.com.

Northwest Auto Parts

One of Alaska's leading salvage yards, Northwest Auto Parts offers the best prices for salvaged vehicles and maintains an extensive inventory of today's most sought-after used car parts. They also take environmental concerns very seriously obtaining the highest possible rating from the United Recycling Group. For every vehicle that comes through their salvage yard, they recycle 99% of its components. Visit them online at northwestautoparts.com.

Stampede Excursions

A family owned and operated Alaskan Tour Operator, Stampede Excursions provides scenic flight tours and land-based adventure travel. In 2018, Stampede began offering unique experiences in the spring, summer, fall, and winter. Moving forward, Stampede is committed to sharing the grandeur of the Denali area and creat-

ing the best guest experience possible year round. Visit them online at stampedeexcursions.com.

Taiga Mining Company

Kevin Greenfield and Jerry Birch formed Taiga Mining Company in 1990. Operating in remote interior Alaska, they built Taiga from its modest beginning with a 6-cubic foot bucket line dredge into a company that was recognized as the Alaska Miners Association's "Corporate Member of the Year" for the company's contributions to the Alaskan mining community.

Thrive Creative + Communications

Thrive Creative + Communications is a marketing, advertising and public relations agency that specializes in producing and managing comprehensive advertising campaigns, corporate communication plans, public outreach efforts, corporate branding and business strategies. With some of the most talented writers, strategists, creative and communications people in the industry, Thrive brings Alaska the very best in advertising and communication services. Visit them online at thrivecreativealaska.com.



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TOLL FREE 877.225.1431 or Ketchikan 907.247.1431

June 19: WEBINAR — *You, the D.E.R. Web Training*

10:00 a.m. Alaska time

FOR: Anyone managing or supporting workplace drug testing programs

INFO: when overseeing a workplace drug & alcohol testing program, there are specific requirements under D.O.T. that must be met and best practices for non-D.O.T. programs that TSS can support. This class will outline the mandatory rules for Designated Employee Representatives (D.E.R.) in an interesting and engaging way with lots of Q&A time for your specific needs! (One hour)

Instructor: Jo McGuire

Cost: \$79

July 10: WEBINAR — *The Fatigued Workforce - The effects of lack of sleep!* (One hour)

10:30 a.m. Alaska time. Presented by David Martin, SHP

Cost: \$39 with promo code SAFETY

July 17: WEBINAR — *Fall Protection - Regs, Systems, Inspections.* (One hour)

10:30 a.m. Alaska time. Presented by Eric Bartholomew

Cost: \$39 with promo code SAFETY

August 7: WEBINAR — *Distracted Driving - What is your policy?* (30 minutes)

10:30 a.m. Alaska time. Presented by David Martin, SHP

Cost: \$29 with promo code SAFETY



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The deception of Stand for Salmon



ConocoPhillips' Alpine field is located within the Colville River delta on Alaska's North Slope near Nuiqsut. The Department of Fish and Game has classified the entire delta as anadromous fish habitat, which is afforded protections under current law known as Title 16. The Stand for Salmon initiative that voters may decide this fall would update Title 16 with increased protections for such habitat that opponents argue could stop many projects in the state, including the Colville River area where several major oil discoveries have been made since 2014. (Photo/File/AP)

By Curtis W. Thayer

Alaska Chamber President & CEO

The Alaska Chamber has long been an outspoken voice for pro-business policies that grow our economy and create economic opportunities for Alaskans. For several years, especially during the recent economic slump, we've advocated for a state fiscal plan that limits government spending and supports private sector growth.

Our annual public opinion survey found that 60 percent of Alaskans rate the state's economy as poor. It's a shocking number, and an indicator of how pessimistic Alaskans are about their ability to work and make a living here.

Alaska already has the unwanted distinction of having the highest unemployment rate in the country. Getting our economy and our state back on track requires some hard decisions and a vision for the future, but, in the short term, we have some serious obstacles right before us.

Alarms now are sounding on an issue that few Alaskans are aware of. The Stand for Salmon ballot measure, a misguided attempt to improve salmon habitat protections, is slated to be on the November general election ballot. Alaskans will get to decide on this issue that chamber members believe to be among the most serious threats to our state economy in years.

It only takes one read of the eight-page document to convince most Alaskans that this ballot measure is both un-Alaskan and unsound. Legal experts have analyzed the ballot measure's language and are shocked by its breadth, complexity, vague undefined terms and its unstated presumptions.

Alaska is already home to a world-class permitting system that allows responsible development and successful fish habitat management to co-exist. This ballot measure is a radical overhaul of a system that works, and it provides no additional benefit to the environment.

But that isn't surprising since neither Alaska businesses nor leaders were consulted in the drafting of

the measure.

Outside money and outside influence led to the creation of this measure and the result is a dumpster fire. It is unwieldy, unpredictable, and dangerous. The fish habitat measure ensures that our economy will continue to shrink, joblessness will grow, and our state will continue to see an out migration of people.

Outside environmental groups and their wealthy outside benefactors are not the people who should be weighing in on policies in Alaska. These are people with a longstanding agenda, and they don't care if they sabotage economic growth and jobs in their misguided mission to enforce extreme fish habitat regulations to the exclusion of everything else.

These activists, whose single largest donor is a Boston billionaire, don't live here, so why would they care if our current economic recession deepens? They would rather turn Alaska into one giant, inaccessible national park.

When the leader of an Alaska Native corporation warns the public, "there will not be another significant project built in rural Alaska if this ballot measure passes," that's a serious matter.

When the construction industry says that building or improving roads, bridges, and runways will become exorbitantly expensive or impossible if this measure passes, that should provoke a sustained outcry.

When the president of the proposed Alaska LNG project says that passage of this ballot measure would make the gas line project "damn near impossible" to build, that should convince us to take action now.

And, when all four leading candidates running for governor, including our current governor, are unified in stating their opposition to this measure, that must motivate us to band together to ensure its defeat in November. Alaskan voters need to get up to speed on this issue. Once they do, I believe they will firmly reject it.

You can learn more about this misguided ballot measure at standforak.com.

Curtis W. Thayer is lifelong Alaskan and serves as president and CEO of the Alaska Chamber

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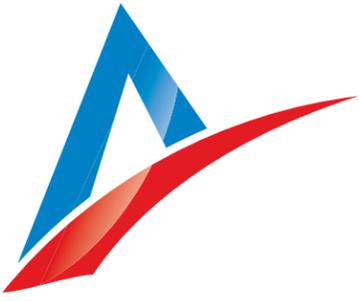
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