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For More Information Call: John Binkley, 907-322-2390, Binkley for Governor '06 Campaign Headquarters, 207 East Northern Lights Blvd., Suite 125, Anchorage, or call Curtis W. Thayer, Campaign Finance Chair, at 907-223-8270.

Binkley APOC Report Shows Widespread, Grassroots Support

Republican gubernatorial candidate John Binkley filed his first campaign finance report today, showing widespread, statewide support.

"It's humbling to have such an overwhelming show of support," Binkley said. "We exceeded our campaign goal for 2005. I am extremely grateful for all the contributions and support coming in from across Alaska."

Campaign Finance Chair Curtis Thayer reported the Binkley campaign raised \$351,568, with almost \$250,000 coming in after Binkley announced his candidacy in the last 10 days of 2005. The report, filed today with the Alaska Public Offices Commission, listed a total of 712 contributions through January.

"It's a great start for the campaign," Binkley said. "We have had contributors from virtually every village and community throughout Alaska. I've had notes and emails from people who said they don't usually contribute to political campaigns but wanted to thank me for stepping out and providing a new generation of leadership for our state."

"I'm supporting John Binkley because he's a man of courage and conviction," said Mike Williams, a campaign contributor from Akiak. "He's a leader who does what's right for all Alaskans."

Binkley, 53, was born and raised in Fairbanks. He and his wife Judy owned and operated a tug-and-barge business on the Yukon and Kuskokwim rivers, out of Bethel, where he was elected to both Alaska House of Representatives and Senate. He served as the co-chair of the Senate Finance Committee and led statewide efforts for alcohol prevention and other community support programs. He left political life to raise his children in Fairbanks and run the family business.

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