

For Immediate Release

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Binkley Debates Issues in Juneau

During a debate in Juneau today, Republican candidate for governor John Binkley reinforced his message that Alaska can get a gasline built in a timely manner. Binkley discussed the gasline, and other important issues, at an event hosted by the Juneau Chamber of Commerce.

"There is no question we can get a gasline deal on Alaska's terms," Binkley said. "It's not 'now or never' and the Murkowski administration knows better than to try and scare Alaskans. We can negotiate a fair deal for our state, and make sure the producers have timelines and benchmarks that will ensure a gasline is actually built. Right now the contract has no such requirement and mistakes of this kind could cost Alaska."

Binkley and Murkowski debated for an hour on topics including the gasline, transportation, education, Ballot Measure 2, and specific Juneau projects. A crowd of more than 100 people listened intently as Binkley took Murkowski to task for his lack of leadership and for losing the trust of Alaskans.

"You simply cannot lead if you've lost the trust of the people," Binkley said. "It is why this administration has been unsuccessful in getting a gasline deal. Binkley stressed the importance of not giving away assets belonging to all Alaskans in what amounts to just a bad deal.

"Listening to Alaskans and working with the Legislature to restore trust is the key to moving forward," Binkley said.

Binkley also stressed his support for vocational education programs statewide and reiterated his opposition to Ballot Measure 2. He emphasized his plans for developing Alaska's infrastructure as a means of moving forward with economic development programs statewide.

In response to an audience question about the importance of diversity in our state, Binkley emphasized his experience living and working in rural Alaska.

"My wife Judy and I started a business and raised our children in Bethel," he said. "We represented the people of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta in the House and Senate and have a unique understanding of the needs of rural Alaska."