

**For Immediate Release**

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**Binkley Calls on Murkowski to Help Save State Money by Paying for Campaign Flights Aboard State Jet**

Republican candidate for governor John Binkley said today it is hypocritical of Frank Murkowski to use the State-owned jet for campaign purposes while also asking State workers to cut costs. According to recent Associated Press research, using Department of Public Safety statistics, Murkowski's jet travel has more than doubled since he began his campaign.

"Now would be a good time for Murkowski to finally lead by example and save the State money," Binkley said. "In response to the Prudhoe Bay shutdown he imposed a hiring freeze this week and is contemplating other budgetary maneuvers in order to make up for lost revenue. As governor, Murkowski should do his part by putting an end to his campaigning with the State jet and also reimburse the State for the thousands of dollars already spent on previous trips."

Murkowski has used the State jet, which he purchased for \$2.7 million in State funds last year, for numerous campaign trips and also to travel to Washington where his yacht was docked. Recently, Murkowski filed his APOC report indicating he spent no money on campaign travel.

"Murkowski does not have the credibility to lecture Alaskans on saving money so long as he misuses State resources for his own political gain," Binkley said. "I am calling on him to stop all campaign travel on the State jet and at the very least reimburse the State for every last penny he owes. Alaskans deserve a governor that will set the right example for fiscal accountability and restraint."