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Republican Gubernatorial Candidate John Binkley Says Legislators Need to Reconnect with the People Back Home

Republican gubernatorial candidate John Binkley said today that it's time for legislators to go home to connect with their constituents and hear for themselves the concerns Alaskans have with Frank Murkowski's proposed gasoline deal.

"It's wrong and it's counterproductive for Murkowski to continue to keep legislators in Juneau just to push through his flawed gasoline contract," Binkley said.

"Alaskans have been telling me they are very concerned about this deal. Legislators need to go home and hear firsthand just what I have been hearing all across the state: the legislature needs to fix Murkowski's gasoline contract."

Binkley said Murkowski has kept legislators in the pressure cooker of Juneau for too long.

"He has had them in Juneau for five months and his inability to move the gasoline forward in an orderly and timely manner is another example of Murkowski's failed leadership."

"We can get a gasoline deal that provides incentives to the industry to build a line and still protect the interests of Alaskans," Binkley said.

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Binkley said there are major problems with the deal that need to be fixed.

"We can't lock in oil taxes for 30 years," Binkley said. "And we shouldn't pre-judge the will of Alaskans by negating any reserves tax that will be before the voters in November."

Binkley also said it doesn't make sense for the state to sign a contract with oil companies without any firm timelines controlled by the state.

"Murkowski has given the legislature a contract without any real timelines to meet that will get us to actual construction of a gas pipeline," Binkley said. "That doesn't make sense."

"The Murkowski administration has bungled the way they have handled this contract. They should have released this contract in February when Murkowski first announced he had a deal with the oil companies," Binkley said.

"Alaskans don't need to decide between this deal and no gas pipeline, as is being portrayed by Murkowski," Binkley said.

"We can get a gas pipeline built, however we need a reasoned, careful and balanced approach to moving forward," Binkley said. "We can't get that in special session after special session in Juneau, without any time for legislators to listen to their constituents."

"It's time for legislators to reconnect with the people back home."

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