

# Ketchikan Daily News

## Editorial: Natural resources

Upon one topic, Alaska's governor and congressional delegation agree — as do most Alaskans: Alaska is a natural resource state. Development of its resources is imperative to its economic well-being and the quality of life of Alaskans.

It's encouraging to see the Parnell administration improving access to more state lands for development and prodding the federal government to do the same. Expansion of the Southeast State Forest and a 14.7-million-acre oil lease sale that might increase in acreage before its put to bid are two examples.

It's heartening to hear Sen. Mark Begich say that there is enough wilderness set aside in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and it is a waste of time and money to review the topic — again.

It's because of forward thinking that Sen. Lisa Murkowski's Critical Minerals Policy Act is being applauded as a means to create jobs, clearly in the Ketchikan area, throughout Alaska and the nation.

The icing on the cake is Congressman Don Young's strong-as-ever campaign for development of all of Alaska's natural resources from Southeast to Southcentral and the Interior. He has made it a tradition to escort his colleagues around the state in an effort to help them understand a natural resource-based state and the implications not only for Alaska but all states in developing those resources.

Alaska cannot help but move forward economically when its leadership agrees what needs to be done and does it. The groundwork is being laid for a better economic future by Alaskans intent on success.

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