

Unknown

From: Bailey, Frank T (GOV) [frank.bailey@alaska.gov]
Sent: Thursday, April 03, 2008 10:20 AM
To: Leighow; Sharon W (GOV)
Cc: ExternalEmailgsp; 'fek9wnr@yahoo.com'; krisandclark@yahoo.com; ivyfrye@yahoo.com
Subject: FW: Homer's response to Stedman

From: Bailey, Frank T (GOV)
Sent: Thursday, April 03, 2008 10:18 AM
To: 'mike heimbuch'
Subject: RE: Homer's response to Stedman

Mike,

This is fantastic...just read it. Please get this out. ADN Compass, Clarion, Trib,

This is awesome...absolutely awesome. I'm going to share this with the Gov & Sharon Leighow. Especially love the 2nd to last paragraph.

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From: mike heimbuch [mailto:musicman@xyz.net]
Sent: Thursday, April 03, 2008 7:30 AM
To: Bailey, Frank T (GOV)
Subject: Fw: Homer's response to Stedman

----- Original Message -----

From: mike heimbuch
To: Bailey, Frank T (GOV)
Sent: Wednesday, April 02, 2008 9:14 AM
Subject: Fw: Homer's response to Stedman

Frank,
Homer may have a response to Stedman's words in the ADN

"I can defend and justify every project in that district" Stedman said. "You'll see there is no fluffy stuff."

Stedman's words reflect part of a problem with public spending. Legislators are the focal point for projects originated by municipalities and other interest groups. Certainly these groups don't see their projects as 'fluffy stuff' nor do we expect them to. These projects often make it onto CIP wish lists of a city or borough. But that may not be sufficient proof of public need or community support. In Homer this last month, by a 2-1 margin, voters rejected an 8 million dollar bond for a new city hall and town center. This project had support of the Legislature, University, city government, and several interest groups, stretching back many years.

The Homer vote can be instructive for us. Often times the very people who bring projects forward for

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public funding have not measured the will of the people. The fact that an interest group or local government has a decent purpose in mind is not adequate reason to hold the public treasury hostage or badger people into spending it.

It may be difficult to see why a governor might personally agree with and support the public purpose of a project - and yet find reason to disapprove spending public money on it. It is simply because the governor is not elected to impose their personal preferences upon the public or hand out some yearly allowance to well behaved children. People expect the governor to apply a consistent and defensible approach for measuring public need prior to spending public money.

To the extent that election of a governor reflects the will of the people - so then must the people's will be reflected in the veto pen of the governor.

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