



Stanley F. Stephens
Owner

February 26, 1995

*Cruises and Charters
in Prince William
Sound, Alaska.*

The Honorable Tony Knowles,
Governor of the State of Alaska
Juneau, Alaska

P.O. Box 1297
Valdez, Alaska 99686

Dear Tony,

(907) 835-4731
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I am writing to you today, not as Governor, but as a friend. After our first meeting, I often wished we could have had more time to talk with each other. I think often of that trip to Anchorage, in which I never stopped talking for six hours.

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I think back on our conversations since then, and know I have not changed. I was worried about the economic future of Alaska with all our eggs in one basket. I wanted to strengthen the University of Alaska with oil money to make it a world renown institution. I wanted to market new products and develop new incentives and resource protection to help our commercial fishing. We talked about all kinds of things we could do to help tourism, but most about how things could be done to help the average Alaskan.

We talked about incentives to help small mining interests and how the State might be able to help them meet their environmental problems and still turn a profit. We talked about the impossible odds of small oil companies trying to penetrate into the market in this State.

We asked why, in one of the richest oil states in the union, do we need to have 30 kids per classroom in our high schools? Why do we have fewer firemen but an increased need, and fewer police but more crime?

We have been on an oil economy for 18 years. Has it been the best thing for this State? Is the average Alaskan better off?

We need more egg baskets! Oil is not the long term answer. It is one answer. How we handle oil now can make an unbelievable difference to the future of this state.

There is a glut of oil world wide.

Who gains from opening the Export Ban now? Surely not Exxon nor Arco. If we open ANWAR, will 51% of it be shipped to Japan?

What about the protection of our waters, our air, our land, our other God-made resources? God gave us oil, but he also gave us intellect so we can protect a far more valuable resource. Is this protection being considered when we talk about lifting the Export Ban?

What about the shorelines from Prince William Sound to Kodiak, to the Aleutians - some of the richest waters in the world. Are we going to do everything we can to assure their protection? Do we have oil recovery equipment in these areas?

What about the age of our tankers and their poor condition! Do we have tugs to perform rescue in these areas? What about the weather in these same areas - its the worst in the world! Could we clean up an oil spill in the winter?

The risk is great, and an incident is almost certain to happen. What is more important - the rich waters and pristine shorelines of Alaska or more profit for London-based B.P.?

We must control our resources for the future, until an alternative fuel is developed. Because of the world-wide oil glut, we do not need to develop ANWAR right now, especially if it is all going to go to Japan or elsewhere!

I think that ANWAR, and all our resources, can be safely developed. This oil industry has one long history of problems. Why push for future development without strings attached to protect our more valuable resources until they develop a better track record?

I think we should be pushing hard for an income tax. Millions of dollars leave this state in enormous profits in the fishing, oil and tourism industries.

We need to invest some of the Permanent Fund profits in Alaska, like the university system.

We need to come to grips with the fact that tourism is the largest industry in the world and could be within Alaska!

From our rich waters, we could feed the world, if we handle this resource right!

Alaska's resources are many. No one resource has the right to ruin another for its economic gains. This has happened around the world, and it is happening here. We can develop all of our resources, but we must have a plan and be willing to spend more in protection.

"Environmentalism" is a dirty word in our politics today. Most of us who speak out know we cannot overcome impossible odds such as the strong oil lobby in Washington D.C. and Juneau. Those lobbyists are paid millions to get results.

Many of us have lost a great deal in our stands against big oil. This has hurt my business and cost me money. I have many friends who have lost more than I have in trying to protect Alaska.

If someone were to ask me who I would listen to more, a highly paid lobbyist or an unpaid citizen, I know I would pay attention to the person who has no monetary gain and is willing to put everything on the line.

I hope we will be able to meet and talk again as friends while you are Governor. You have great responsibilities now, and may God help you make correct decisions.

Always your friend,


Stan Stephens