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## **Murkowski Welcomes Heyworth Support** **Democrat Lt. Gov. Candidate Sees Best Gasline Hopes with Murkowski**

(ANCHORAGE) – Frank H. Murkowski today welcomed the endorsement of Scott Heyworth, sponsor of a successful natural gasline ballot initiative and former Democratic candidate for lieutenant governor, who said Murkowski represents Alaska’s best hope for getting a gasline built.

“Scott Heyworth demonstrates the kind of can-do, pioneering Alaska spirit that has helped turn big dreams into big accomplishments,” Murkowski said. “Seeing the potential for a natural gas pipeline from the North Slope to Valdez and an innovative way to make it happen, he collected more than 42,000 petition signatures, so Alaskans can cast their vote in favor of economic opportunity and a brighter future this fall, in the form of the All-Alaskan Gasline Initiative.”

“I am honored to have Scott’s support in my campaign to be Alaska’s governor, and I invite all working men and women, both Democrat and Republican, who share his confidence in Alaska’s future and willingness to help make it happen to join with me in my efforts to build a stronger economy for our state and for our children.”

Speaking on the Port of Anchorage docks where he has worked as longshoreman for 32 years, Heyworth announced he was abandoning his pursuit of the Democratic Party’s nomination as a candidate for lieutenant governor, saying he received far more support and encouragement for his ideas from Murkowski than from fellow Democrats.

“Let me be clear about this issue: I will support any route that takes Alaska’s gas to market,” Murkowski said. “I believe that an Alaskan gasline project can and will put Alaskans to work in high-paying, resource-based jobs, that we should examine gasline options that serve both domestic and Pacific Rim markets, and that we should take advantage of our opportunity to develop an in-state petrochemical industry to expand and diversify our economy.”

Standing with Murkowski and Heyworth were Anchorage Port Director Bill Sheffield, a former Democratic governor of Alaska, and Jerry Hood, Secretary/Treasurer of Teamsters Local 959, which has also endorsed Murkowski’s campaign.

“With the support of men like Scott Heyworth, the support of our friends in organized labor represented here today, and the support of the voters of Alaska, I am confident that we can use our natural gas resources to help improve our state’s economy, instead of turning first to taxing the paychecks of working Alaskans or taking away their Permanent Fund dividends.”

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