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Sturgulewski 'superbly qualified'

To the editor:

I support Arliss Sturgulewski — not because of bad things I hear about Tony Knowles and not because I'm told that Wally Hickel and Jack Coghill are "two old dogs who want one last chance to bay at the moon."

I'm voting for Sturgulewski because she is superbly qualified, because she is a person of unquestionably high character and because she will be a distinguished governor for Alaska.

Barbara R. Parnell
Juneau

Health aides deserve thank you

To the editor:

Villages should acknowledge their health aides. After all, these are the people who are on call 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Come rain, shine or snow, they are caring for you, seeing you in the clinics and making home visits for the chronically ill and elders.

They are there when you get hurt by accidents. They deliver your babies, and they are there when you have lost a loved one. They teach you to take care of your families and to keep them well.

I know there are a lot of villages where people don't even say thank you. You know these health aides have families, too, and would like to spend time with their family, but are so busy working taking care of their people.

So, as I say, thank you, health aides, for the tremendous work you have done in your villages. We're behind you all the way. You're great. Keep up the good work.

Myrtle Van Doorn
President, Community Health
Aide Advisory Board
Aniak

Knowles supports subsistence

To the editor:

I've noticed our local newspapers in Bristol Bay have been flooded with letters from Juneau and Anchorage telling us we should support Arliss Sturgulewski or worse, Wally Hickel, for governor. How dumb do they think we are?

The fact is, subsistence is on the ballot this November in the governor's race. Tony Knowles and Willie Hensley are the only candidates who strongly support subsistence. The others simply use rhetoric to hide their opposition to rural Alaska on this issue.

It is not surprising the Hickel/Coghill ticket is drawing the

support of many of the anti-subsistence activists. Jack Coghill was a diehard opponent of subsistence in the last legislative session.

Although he was on the radio in Dillingham recently saying how much he "supports" subsistence, his version of it eliminates the difference between sport and subsistence hunting and would give every \$150,000-per-year businessman in Anchorage equal access to the resources rural villages live on.

He wants to change federal law to eliminate the rural subsistence preference. Hickel said recently he wants more sport fishing representatives on the Board of Fisheries!



Letters to the Editor

• Bush supports Knowles

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Sturgulewski is not much better. Legally, the only way to protect subsistence and get out of federal management without putting the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act up for grabs in Congress is to amend the Alaska Constitution to put the rural subsistence preference back into state law.

Yet, at a recent debate in King Salmon, Sturgulewski would not commit to a constitutional amendment. She said she wouldn't eliminate "other options," which is just political shorthand for saying she might join the lawsuit against the federal subsistence law or ask Congress to weaken subsistence rights.

Rural voters should know that Cheri Jacobus, the new chairwoman of the Alaska Republican Party, supports Sturgulewski. Jacobus is the lawyer

who won the McDowell case and a key leader of the attack on subsistence. Sturgulewski will not be able to ignore these people if she gets elected.

Legislative reapportionment is another important factor. Whoever wins the governor's office will be able to influence the makeup of the Legislature for the next 10 years. A victory by either Sturgulewski or Hickel will inevitably increase the power of that extreme right-wing faction that has taken over the state Republican Party organization, blocked a solution to the subsistence crisis in the Legislature and consistently opposes rural interests.

Knowles and Hensley support all Alaska, not just the urban areas. They need strong Bush support, and I hope that rural people turn out and vote for them in record numbers Nov. 6.

Bruce Baltar
Dillingham

Sturgulewski keeps word

To the editor:

I am a state employee, and Arliss Sturgulewski has made me proud of her. She has consistently supported protecting our wages from inflation and full funding of contracts and arbitration awards.

She has said that she opposes an across-the-board approach to budgeting. She has said that she will not balance the budget on the backs of state employees.

Sturgulewski has already proved that she will keep these promises. On the day before Jack Coghill defected to the Alaskan Independence Party, he and a small band of men met in Anchorage. At that meeting Coghill and his group put several demands in front of Sturgulewski.

Among other demands, they insisted that she cut the budget, the number of state employees and employee wages by 5 percent per year. She told them that she was committed to containing the cost of government but would not agree to such a ridiculous demand.

She did this even though it meant that her ticket could be split and that a third-party run by Hickel was made likely. Her word and her principles were more important than political expediency.

She could have promised them anything and then told them that "all bets are off" after the election, but she didn't. She is not like that. She says what she means and means what she says. She doesn't make a promise that she doesn't intend to keep.

Sturgulewski stood up for me and all state employees. She didn't have to, but she did. Now, it is our turn to stand up for her.

Her theme has been "Leadership you can trust." Her actions prove that she keeps her word. That is the kind of person we need as governor. That is why I am proud to say that I support Sturgulewski for governor and Jim Campbell for lieutenant governor.

Gary Sanders
Juneau

State worker wants Arliss

To the editor:

There has been much talk in the gubernatorial campaign about wearing different hats — and Tony Knowles certainly has many of them — but there should be some serious talk about wearing masks, as well.

A recent Knowles ad directed at state employees uses some of Arliss Sturgulewski's exact words.

It was Sturgulewski who first said (and has always said) she would never balance the budget on the backs of state employees. Now Knowles, who advocates a hiring freeze and a 15 per-

cent across-the-board cut in "management," is claiming the same thing.

Knowles has spoken. He favors across-the-board cuts, cuts that would definitely rest on, if not break, the backs of state employees who are already overburdened.

It's time that Knowles put down the Sturgulewski mask — or at least stopped plagiarizing her words. And it's time that he gave a little credit to state employees. They're smarter than he thinks.

Maria Iverson
Juneau