

Adams demonstrates leadership

We'd like to offer our heartfelt thanks and congratulations to Rep. Al Adams, chairman of the House Finance Committee, for his outstanding performance in the Legislature this year.

It's clear that the Kotzebue representative has become one of the recognized leaders of the Alaska Legislature.

This is hardly a surprise. Adams has been chairman of the House Finance Committee for seven sessions, and in that time he has proven his abilities as a leader.

His role is an indication of the important leadership rural Alaska has demonstrated in state politics through the years.

Much of Adams' success stems from the fact that he is not parochial in his view of Alaska. Certainly, his district has been well served by him, and Adams has done everything in his power to help his constituents.

On the other hand, Adams has a very deep understanding of the state budgetary process, and he keeps the best interests of all Alaskans in mind. This knowledge is essential in his role as chairman of the House Finance Committee.

Adams is a staunch fiscal conservative, and he maintains a non-partisan view of the budget. He also has a hard-working, dedicated and loyal staff — a staff that has been with him a long time. Through Adams, these staff members have been sensitized to the needs of the Bush.

The sort of leadership demonstrated by Adams this year will be ever more important for rural Alaska in the coming months. Alaska's fiscal problems aren't going to go away soon, and it will take all Alaskans working together to weather this storm.

It will particularly important for rural Alaskans to have strong representation in these times of economic difficulty.

OUR THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

We'd like to take this opportunity to again thank one of our most dedicated volunteers. Barbara Crane is tireless in her efforts for the *Tundra Times*, and she devotes at least one full day each week to working in our office.

Because we are unable to make long-distance telephone calls, we write many letters to people throughout Alaska and the Lower 48. Many of these letters are composed and written by Barbara. This sort of volunteer assistance is a vital service to the newspaper because it helps us maintain this important communication link.

We remain in a precarious financial situation here at the paper, and the state's economic woes don't help us. At the same time, with volunteers like Barbara Crane, we believe we will remain a viable voice for the Alaska Native community.

We'd also like to recognize University of Alaska student intern Steve Pilkington, who is working for us almost full-time this summer on a volunteer basis.

We hope you see many of Steve's by-lines this summer.