

On jobs, says Murkowski, 'Create, don't legislate'

An expert in economic development told a group of Fairbanks residents recently that Wally Hickel should be Governor for Alaska "because Wally Hickel knowshow to make jobs happen."

Frank Murkowski, Alaska's former Commissioner of Economic Development was speaking at a Hickel for Governor fundraiser in Fairbanks. Fairbanks, Alaska's second largest community, leads the state in unemployment with close to one-in-five local workers unemployed in the past year. Alaska, in turn, leads the nation in joblessness.

"It's not an impressive record," Murkowski said. "We've got a Governor who thinks you can put people to work by putting them on the government payroll. But you can't legislate jobs. You have to create them."

Murkowski said that when he served in Hickel's cabinet, he saw with his own eyes that Wally Hickel knows howto get action going on employment.

"True jobs come from sound resource development planned on a basis which is in the best interests of the environment and in the best interests of the Alaskans," Murkowski said.

"You have to start with the land, you don't start by locking it up."

In his travels around the state, Hickel has used his platform as a candidate to speak out for growth for the Alaskans who are here.

"We have 90,000 young Alaskans in the schools, and 8,000 of them are coming on stream every year," Hickel said recently. "Do we want them to go on drugs on alcohol or go outside to work? No. We need to have growth just to take care of the people who are here."

"We need Wally Hickel's 'can-do' attitude back, just to get the state moving again," Murkowski concluded.