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Blodgett Supports Gravel; Files For State Senate

State Senator Bob Blodgett, (D-Teller), has withdrawn from the race for the U.S. House and has swung his support to House Speaker Mike Gravel who is now challenging incumbent Rep. Ralph Rivers for Alaska's lone seat in the U.S. House.

The Teller Democrat blasted Rivers and praised Gravel for his efforts in behalf of rural residents over the past four years and during his two years as House Speaker.

Blodgett told the Tundra Times that he had taken the lead in opposing Rep. Ralph

Sen. Blodgett .

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Rivers for re-election.

"I congratulate the North Slope Native Association for their decision not to support Rep. Rivers anymore," Blodgett stated.

"I join the North Slope Native Association in endorsing the Honorable Mike Gravel, Speaker of the House, as our candidate for U.S. Representative, and I am confident that thinking Alaskans will join us endorsing Mike Gravel as our much needed U.S. Representative," Blodgett said.

"I have had the honor and pleasure to serve with Mike Gravel in the Alaska legislature for the past four years. He is and always has been my personal friend. He has stood up and been counted many times in helping me represent my people," Blodgett stated.

"Mike Gravel is the father of the regional high school legislation that will benefit all of Alaska," Blodgett said.

"Mike Gravel is well educated, young, a hard worker, and a well trained worker, and our best hope for a better future by way of representation in Congress," Blodgett added.

"The time is past due," Blodgett stated, "to take the old dog out of harness and replace him with a new, young, hard working, well trained one."

"As for myself," Blodgett stated, "I was elected to a four year term as State Senator at large for Northwest Alaska only two years ago. Unfortunately re-apportionment, as ordered by the U. S. Supreme Court and Governor Egan, has cut my four year term to two years."

Blodgett said he is also re-filing for the lone northwest Senate seat under the reapportionment plan, and will resume his efforts in behalf of Northwest Alaska in such areas as better air service, better fish prices, more and better airfields, regional high schools, mineral development, roads, harbors and railroads.

"Mike Gravel will help us on the national level. Mike and I will work together," Blodgett added.