

Cowper asks Katz to remain as special counsel in Washington

Gov. Steve Cowper has asked John Katz to stay on as special counsel to the governor and director of state/federal relations in Washington, D.C.

"John Katz's detailed grasp of the strong, yet intricate relationship, between the federal government and the state of Alaska is invaluable," said Cowper.

The 43-year-old attorney first began working on Alaska issues at the federal level in 1969 when he served as legislative and administrative assistant to then U.S. Rep. Howard W. Pollock.

In 1972, Katz moved to Anchorage and went into private practice. Subsequently, he was named co-counsel for the Joint Federal-State Land Use Plan-

ning Commission. He was elevated to counsel in 1974, and he won the commission's award for "Superior Sustained Performance" in 1978.

In 1979, Gov. Jay Hammond made Katz his special counsel and gave him the responsibility of advancing the state's position on land and resource issues in the nation's capital during the critical period of national debate that culminated in the Alaska National Interest Conservation Act.

In 1981, Hammond called Katz back to Alaska to serve as commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources. Katz continued as commissioner of DNR in the Sheffield administration before once again going to Washington, D.C., in 1983 to represent Alaska's interests.

The position pays \$69,576.