

Construction exec endorses Alcan line

The Chairman of one of Alaska's largest construction firms and publisher of the Alaska Journal of Commerce, Les Gundersen, has initiated a trade mission to Canada's western provinces to lay the groundwork for cooperation in anticipation of a favorable decision for Alcan and the route for the natural gas pipeline.

Gundersen is chairman of Modern Construction, with a background of more than 25 years in Alaska's construction industry. His newspaper, the Alaska Journal of Commerce, is the state's only business-financial newspaper. He is a 30-year resident of the state.

Gundersen said his decision to support the Alcan line came from the overwhelming evidence

in the last year indicating Alcan has the best benefits for Alaska and the least environmental impact, plus the best chance of obtaining permits.

"I believe," Gundersen said, "The economic benefits for Alaska will result in more opportunities for Alaska contractors, businessmen and labor than the other route proposed."

"I've sat back too long and watched control of northern development slip through our fingers," Gundersen said, "my long experience in northern construction tells me the winner will be the Alcan route."

"The route has significant advantages for construction, such as a capability to use an existing transportation corridor," he added, "this alone is an important strength, with untouchable benefits for Alaska."