HUNTINGTON CANDIDATE



JIMMY HUNTINGTON

Yukon River Native To Try for State House As an Independent

By MARGIE BAUMAN

Yukon River philosopher, hunter and writer Jimmy Huntington has resigned as regional director of the Koyukon Development Corporation to run as an independent candidate for the Alaska State House of Representatives in District 18.

A strong spokesman for the subsistence rights of Alaska Natives, Huntington made his candidacy announcement at a meeting of the Rural Alaska Community Action Program (RurAL CAP) last week at McGrath. His resignation is effective Oct. 4.

Former legislator Martin Moore of Emmonak is also seeking the seat as a write-in candidate.

Born and raised in the Interior of Alaska, Huntington has trapped and hunted for a living for 50 years of his life and has, particularly in recent years, demanded in public and private that the land not be destroyed in the name of progress.

"We must develop Alaska without destroying Alaska," Huntington said. "My people of the villages must have something to say about what happens to their land."

Outspoken on the need to preserve Alaska's lands through careful conservation, Huntington said he chose to run at the urging of friends who feel that he would be a powerful voice for rural Alaska in the House.

"I've hunted and trapped for a living for 50 years of my life and therefore I'm a conservative person when it comes to management of our game resources," he said, "I do not believe in the destruction of the land for the gain and benefit of a few.

"I believe in the development of Alaska, but before development, I believe we should take a look at what benefits will be deprived before development begins." he said.

"We're going to have to take positive action on the remaining

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Huntington

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big game we have in Alaska (because) we are at this time on the way to complete destruction and obliteration of game resources in Alaska, unless we do something about it now." he said.

Trapper, hunter and author of the book "On the Edge of Nowhere," Huntington seeks to represent a large district stretching from Hooper Bay on the Bering Sea to Hughes and Allakaket to McGrath. The district is comprised of primarily small Athabascan and Eskimo villages.

Active in Native affairs in the Interior, Huntington has served as chief of Huslia and on its village council, and as mayor of the city of Galena and on the Galena City Council. He is also a board member of Doyon, Limited.