

# Lindauer supports amendment

## Seeks priority for 'traditional' subsistence uses

by Geoff Kennedy  
for the Tundra Times

*Editor's note: This is the eighth in a series of articles the Tundra Times will be running on candidates for governor and lieutenant governor.*

Alaskan Independence Party candidate John Lindauer supports a constitutional amendment providing a subsistence priority for "traditional" subsistence users.

He defined traditional users as those who live in rural areas and depend on the resource culturally and economically.

The highest priority should go to the people who need subsistence fish and game for food, Lindauer said.

In traveling in rural Alaska, he's found there's generally enough game for everyone, he said. A constitutional amendment is the best way to restore the subsistence system the state used before lawsuits that challenged their validity, he said.

Gov. Steve Cowper has called a special session of the Legislature beginning June 25 to replace the subsistence law declared unconstitutional by the state Supreme Court last

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The state House failed to pass a measure to provide a rural subsistence priority; the issue never reached the floor of the Senate this year.

The federal government will manage fish and game on its lands beginning July 1. The 1980 Alaska

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National Interest Lands Conservation Act requires the federal government to ensure a rural subsistence priority when fish and game become scarce in the state. The state Supreme Court said that priority violated the equal protection clause of the Alaska Constitution.

Asked to set priorities for balancing the budget when oil revenues dwindle, Lindauer denied such a situation would occur over the eight years he would be governor.

"I do not see a massive decline in oil production," he said. "Any declines will be relatively minor in the next five years. Oil fields are tremendously stable."

Alaska is "awash in money," he said, but it should get rid of thousands of "superfluous bureaucrats" in Juneau. If elected, he said, he would reduce their numbers, but keep state employees in rural Alaska.

Secondly, he would eliminate state programs he considers "totally obsolete," such as the Divisions of Banking and Agriculture. He would also eliminate all functions of the Commission on Post-Secondary Education, except for the student loan program.

He would raise state alcohol and tobacco taxes and hunting and fishing licenses for non-residents.

Lindauer supports the Power Cost Equalization Program, the Longevity Bonus Program and the Rural Alaska Television Network. He pledged to do what he could to remove alcohol commercials from RATNET.

Lindauer said he would boost the economy of rural Alaska by:

- Returning limited entry permits to Alaskans, especially rural Alaskans. He would change regulations to give the state the opportunity to match of-



John Lindauer

fers by out-of-state residents to buy the permits, he said. If necessary he would use state money to hold permits for rural Alaskans "in perpetuity."

- Encouraging out-of-state tourism in rural areas that welcome it.

- Protecting trapping and subsistence lifestyles in rural Alaska.

- Protecting the longevity bonus.

- Restoring the forgiveness clause in student loans to borrowers who return to or stay in the state after graduation.

- Encouraging rural Alaskans to seek the professional positions available in rural areas.

Lindauer's top priority statewide is to reduce drug and alcohol abuse in rural Alaska, he said. That means, he said, spending more state money on law enforcement, guidance, counseling and education, even if the state experiences a "crash in revenues."

"Anybody who's a bootlegger in rural Alaska is going to be a sorry son

***'I do not see a massive decline in oil production. Any declines will be relatively minor in the next five years. Oil fields are tremendously stable.'***

***—John Lindauer***

of a gun if I get elected," he said. "I may not get all of them, but I'm sure going to try."

Lindauer would negotiate a health-insurance plan to include all Alaskans who wanted to join, he said. By pooling all Alaskans into such a program, he could reduce the costs of health insurance by up to 65 percent, according to one estimate, he said.

"I think I'd be the most active governor," Lindauer said. "I would also be the one most likely to deal directly with village people instead of

the Anchorage intermediaries who allegedly represent them. I don't worship the AFN; I believe in the village organizations, like the AVCP and the Tanana Chiefs."

Lindauer, 52, has lived in Anchorage since 1976. He was chancellor of the University of Alaska Anchorage for two years and spent two years in the state House. He now owns rural Alaska newspapers. Lindauer is married with two children. He has a doctorate degree in economics from Oklahoma State University.