

Harper Argues Over Pipeline Construction

The executive director of the Rural Alaska Community Action Program, (RurAL CAP), Mike Harper, has come out strongly against "the attitude in the state government, recently expressed by Commissioner Mallott, that construction of the pipeline will not have adverse affects outside of the pipeline corridor."

Quoting from a position paper prepared by RurAL CAP, (which has been supplied to the commissioner), Harper notes: "There is general agreement that the impact will be profound, far-reaching, irreversible, and probably negative" on the traditional rural Alaskan lifestyle.

"Any way you look at it,"

says Harper, "there is going to be a major impact, even away from the pipeline corridor. I am thinking of such things as inflation, subsistence hunting and fishing, health, education, and a whole series of other concerns."

Most significantly, the political power of the rural areas will diminish as the population increases in the urban areas. This, it seems to me, is reason enough to be concerned about impact."

Harper goes on to say, "I am dismayed that a highly-placed state official can come to the conclusion that the impact will be 'beneficial' when the state has utterly failed to examine the impact on rural Alaska at all."