The Resource Development Council for Alaska (RDC) has announced plans to spearhead a statewide campaign to support policies of the new Secretary of Interior James Watt.

RDC officials say the effort will begin with a petition drive. The group will initiate the project by contacting associate organizations which actively support rational land-use policies.

"We are convinced the vast majority of Alaskans support his appointment as Interior Chief," said Paula Easley, executive director of the council. "Our job is to get them to speak up. Petitions aren't the best way to do this, but our effort is intended to neutralize the petition campaign being conducted by environmental and consumer groups demanding Watt's resignation," she said.

The Council, the state's largest citizens group, whose members come from labor, business, and government, also plans a letter campaign targeted to key members of congress.

Charles F. Herbert, newly-elected President of the Resource Development Council, explained the action of the group's executive committee.

"Jim Watt is not the pro-development extremist he's being made to appear. His background, experience, and commitment to balancing development and environmental concerns are exactly what this nation needs," Herbert said. "We want Congress to know Alaskans support him.

Herbert said the project would be a major undertaking of RDC. "We're going to need a lot of volunteers—individuals and organizations working with their own members—to make this a success.

Herbert urged Alaskans wishing to assist the project, dubbed "Alaskans for Secretary Watt," to contact RDC at 278-9615.

House Research Agency, Continued...

Christine Johnson performs research on social and health services, the judiciary and law enforcement, and state taxes and expenditures. She is currently working on an evaluation of the child support enforcement program and an analysis of water right issues, as well as providing oversight of State loan program activities.

Jack Kreinheder focused his efforts the past session on revenue sharing, oil and gas, fisheries and health care. His present assignments include an analysis of coastal protection funds and research relating to energy conservation, the Susitna Hydroelectric project, and telecommunications.

Leslie Longenbaugh has been hired as a temporary entry-level research analyst. Her research has focused on State loan programs and higher education issues.

At a recent hearing in Juneau dealing with Alaska coal, researchers Susan Brody and Ann DeVries were commended by RDC's executive director for their reports on Coal Leasing and Taxation and Markets for Alaskan Coal.

Within:

- New Executive Committee Officers
- Policy Statements Approved
- Alaska Coal
- King Speaks At Annual Meeting
- Alaska Railroad
Valdez Wins Environmental Award

The Resource Development Council presented its Environmental Enhancement Award to the City of Valdez at the organization's annual meeting, Friday, April 10 at the Captain Cook Hotel.

In accepting the award from Resource Development Council Executive Committee member Jed Holley, Valdez Mayor Stephen McAlpine thanked the Resource Development Council and noted that “growth and environmental qualities can be rendered compatible through sound planning.” The award is given in recognition of a community or organization's outstanding efforts to improve the quality of life through well planned economic development and aesthetic improvements.

“Valdez has become one of Alaska’s major growth centers in the past decade and while many people will assume that industrial expansion is necessarily accompanied by environmental deterioration, Valdez citizens have proved otherwise,” Holley stated. Citing the accomplishments Valdez has achieved in the past two years, Holley noted that the city, along with volunteer service organizations, is pursuing the beautification of the city in tandem with industrial expansion designed to establish the community as a diversified center of commerce.

Projects recently completed in Valdez include the landscaping of the Miners Creek Park, construction of the Camp Comfort Neighborhood Park, a softball complex, and the small Boat Harbor Boardwalk. Continuing improvements and programs in 1981 include construction of the Valdez Civic Auditorium, capital improvements to provide neighborhood parks, expansion of bike paths and improvements to historical hiking routes, the acquisition of a Parks and Recreation Master Plan and Community Development Plan. In addition, annual landscaping programs consisting of flower and tree plantings, continue.

Runner-up candidates for the Environmental Enhancement Award were Ewan Creek, Union Park, construction of the Camp Comfort Neighborhood Park, a softball complex, and the small Boat Harbor Boardwalk. Continuing improvements and programs in 1981 include construction of the Valdez Civic Auditorium, capital improvements to provide neighborhood parks, expansion of bike paths and improvements to historical hiking routes, the acquisition of a Parks and Recreation Master Plan and Community Development Plan. In addition, annual landscaping programs consisting of flower and tree plantings, continue.

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**SCDF Attorney Expresses Regret, Continued...**

Because Mr. Schnabel had won every preliminary in the Haines eagle lawsuit, and because he seemed to have won every aspect of the trial, I stated in the letter that it was absurd for him to say the lawsuit closed the mill. (Let me add that I did not participate in any aspect of the case, nor did I see any of the trial. I read about it in the paper and heard some reports from those who saw it.)

In my opinion, as an outside observer, I didn’t think the lawsuit could have caused Mr. Schnabel to close his mill. But here I may have been mistaken. I have since heard that the very existence of the litigation may have made it more difficult for Mr. Schnabel to get bonding. Mayor Halliwell’s letter to the Juneau Empire set me straight about this.

Environmentalists are usually the underdogs, fighting big development corporations. This is the case in the lower-48, and it goes in spades for Alaska. But giving the underdog this much importance is a pretty important right—a right I think most Alaskans support. Especially when the fight is about something as important as the unique eagles of Haines.

I hope this clarifies some of the misinterpretations of my letter. I’m really sorry if the letter offended Mr. Schnabel or others in Haines. I’m also sorry to have gotten off to a bad start with the citizens of Haines.

Before I finish, let me mention that the first lawsuit I personally brought in Alaska actually was on behalf of loggers, as well as environmentalists. The suit prevented the state from wasting $18 million of timber at the Point McKenzie agricultural land disposal. It was settled March 11, less than a week after it was filed. Favorable editorials from the Anchorage Times and the Fairbanks News-Miner are enclosed.

In the future I plan to continue representing local loggers, fishermen, subsistence groups, environmental organizations, and anyone else who is interested in promoting the wise use of the state’s natural resources. As several people in Haines have pointed out to me, most Alaskans came here to enjoy the state’s natural resources and most support their wise use.

**A Fourth Branch of Government**

The host of federal regulatory agencies in Washington is an unofficial “fourth branch of government” independent of the system of checks and balances that constrain the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial branches, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce says in its recommendations to the Reagan Administration for federal regulatory reform.

According to the January edition of Association Trends, the new president must seek both a comprehensive thoroughbred reform bill and revision of specific regulatory programs on a case-by-case basis to correct the current regulatory crisis. Association Trends quoted the Chamber as saying that “some government entity must be given authority to oversee the activities of all the regulatory agencies. At present, each agency regulates as if its mission were the only one in the world.”

The Chamber observed that there is no government framework for measuring the overall burden of regulation, to identify and eliminate overlaps and duplication, or resolve jurisdictional conflicts.

“The critical question remains one of centralized authority over the regulators so the historical American government system of checks and balances can be restored,” the Chamber said. “This is the key objective of meaningful regulatory reform; it should be a top priority of the new Administration.”

**King Speaks at RDC Annual Meeting**

“Alaska can look forward to a tremendous amount of activity toward strategic mineral production,” says Llewellyn King, publisher of several international trade journals.

Speaking before a capacity crowd at the Resource Development Council’s annual meeting, Mayor of the Hotel, King said he expects the Departments of State and Interior to spearhead a drive to develop the state’s hard rock minerals to avoid growing national shortages. "I would expect an initiative from this administration to build up the strategic stockpiles in these minerals and to open up where possible and how possible their development."

However, King noted that only at the Department of the Interior are Alaskan matters receiving much attention. He said that overall the administration isn’t focusing much on Alaska and therefore many of the state’s issues are taking a back seat in Washington.

Financing of the proposed gas line is far from secure, King said. In fact, he expressed doubt about the actual construction of the pipeline and said “I wouldn't be surprised if other alternatives are discussed soon.”

"By and large Alaska does not concern the average American," King explained. "Unfortunately the only people in the contiguous forty-eight states outside of those interested in development... are those many interested in no development... These people represent a strong lobby, the environmental movement, King asserted. He warned that mineral and energy leasing programs will be closely watched by environmental groups. "They will be quick to challenge Interior Secretary James Watt's efforts in court if they believe he has exceeded his authority," King predicted. "I don't think the lands bill will be changed."

According to King, editor of The Energy Daily, Metals Daily, and Defense Week, the great majority of Americans is not aware that the state is enjoying an economic boom. Referring to the phrase, "blue-eyed Arab," the Washington D.C. resident said he never heard of it until arriving in Anchorage. "My advice to you would be to forget it before somebody down there hears it and takes an interest in your prosperity." He added, "the last thing you need is a media campaign to apologize for being successful." If the state spends $2 million on an advertising campaign to tell the country that Alaska isn’t a “blue-eyed Arab,” it would only create a problem where one does not now exist, King said. "Can you imagine what would happen if you went around telling people that you really weren’t rich?"

King closed by saying, "I think with Alaska’s resources and the attitude of this new administration, you will be infinitely more successful."

**Sixteen Policy Statements Approved**

The Resource Development Council adopted sixteen policy statements on renewable and nonrenewable resources, the Alaska Railroad, government control, taxes and state land policies at its annual meeting April 10. The Resource Development Council statements represent several months of intensive work by over 100 people, each specialists in their field. Each policy requires urgent attention and will direct the Council’s activities thereafter.

The policy statement regarding the Alaska Railroad urges the state to take the necessary steps to acquire ownership from the federal government, create an independent authority to oversee its operation and contract with private enterprise to operate and manage the facility. Once the railroad becomes economically feasible, the Resource Development Council urges that it be placed in private ownership. The statement contained stipulations which brought lively discussion among members of the Council’s statewide board, but was unanimously passed once amendments were agreed upon.

The policy statement on natural gas and petrochemical development in Alaska calls for the state to analyze, investigate, identify and remove problems that are detracting from and retarding the establishment of a petrochemical industry in Alaska. Furthermore, the Council urges the legislature to develop a clear economic policy.

Continued on page 11

**Alaska Coal Exports Discussed**

Robert LeResche, Commissioner of Natural Resources, has proposed the establishment of an export promotional program to allay Japanese fears about the quality of Alaskan coal and the state’s sincere intentions toward entering the world coal market.

Speaking at the March Coal Port Hearings in Juneau, LeResche said government policy is very important to Japanese and Korean businessmen. "The state needs to give them a simple statement of policy and establish a simple royalty at a very low rate," LeResche said. The tax policy must be clear, the Commissioner said. "The legislature and administration must decide right now what the severance tax will be."

LeResche supports endorsement by state government of tax-exempt financing to encourage establishment of infrastructure. He envisions two or three export sites rather than one large facility.

To expand the Seward and Anchorage ports to handle three million tons of coal annually, a $4 million appropriation would be necessary, LeResche said. "The state could be the financier of the last resort for infrastructure."

Although the coal buyer will determine which port to use, LeResche said, "We need to start monthly or weekly shipments as soon as possible to show them we are in business and serious."

LeResche said he supported the administration and legislature, following approval by the Coal Task Force, to introduce legislation spelling out state policy and setting severance tax. He warned that severance taxes hit the coal industry much harder than the oil industry.

Dick Eakins, Director of the Division of Economic Enterprise, said he foresees Beluga coal serving as the catalyst for the establishment of an export promotional program. "It will be infinitely more successful."

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**Continued on page 11**
Energy Costs Continue To Soar In Rural Alaska, Report Says

If fuel prices continue to rise and household income and energy consumption follow historical trends, by 1988 the proportion of cash income spent on energy will rise from 29 to 40 percent for rural native households.

The projection was released in a report titled, “The Impact of Rising Energy Prices on Rural Alaska” by researchers William Nebesky and Oliver Goldsmith. Both men are with the University of Alaska’s Institute of Social and Economic Research.

Study results indicated that between 1974 and 1978, rising energy costs sharply increased household expenditures on heating oil and electricity in rural Alaska. During this time the proportion of income spent on electricity in rural Alaska will increase 50 percent, from $2,000 in 1978 to $3,000 in 1988. The researchers emphasize that these findings depend mainly on the future path of world petroleum prices, the long-term impact of decontrolling prices of U.S. domestic crude oil, and the growth of transportation and distribution costs in rural Alaska.

In concluding, the study forecast that median household energy expenditures in rural Alaska will increase 50 percent, from $2,000 in 1978 to $3,000 in 1988. The researchers emphasize that these findings depend mainly on the assumption that government programs aimed at reducing the impact of rising energy prices will not be functioning between 1978 and 1989. Should fuel assistance or weatherization programs be carried out over this period, indications are that the energy portion of the household budget could be reduced by as much as 27 percent of projected 1988 levels.

Of the two programs, a fuel assistance program would require that the state provide continuous and increasing financial assistance to help residents pay rising costs of fuel and electricity. A weatherization program that would help residents caulk and insulate their homes, could permanently reduce the proportion of per capita household income required for future energy expenditures.

Advisory Committee Impressed With Petrochemical Plants

Members of a citizens advisory committee studying the effects of a petrochemical industry in Alaska say that three plants they recently visited in Michigan, Louisiana, and Texas operate cleanly and are a plus to their communities.

Kay Poland, Director of the Office of Commercial Fisheries Development for the State of Alaska, and Millett Keller, Anchorage businessmen, discussed their findings before the April 2 meeting of the Resource Development Council, both Poland and Keller were accompanied on the tour by Eric Myers of the Alaska Public Interest Research Group and Myers was invited to speak on the panel, but failed to respond.

Poland and Keller spoke highly of the facilities operated by Dow Chemical USA, the leader of a nine-member consortium studying the feasibility of a petrochemical complex in the 40th state. “The petrochemical business is not a smokestack industry,” Keller said. “It’s Continued on page 7

Lumber Company Forced To Pursue Further Litigation

Schnabel Lumber Company of Haines is now forced with continued litigation and costs in preparing briefs for presentation to the State Supreme Court after SEACC filed an Appeal for March 2.

John Schnabel, president of the lumber company, said “It is important that we not lose by default the opportunity to uphold this landmark decision.” Schnabel said his company “is tapped out and does not have the funds to pay its aged trade accounts. We cannot finance another round of litigation,” Schnabel added.

The Borough of Haines has provided $3,500 to obtain a transcript of the trial and Schnabel’s attorney has agreed to continue the case in hopes the company can find a way to pay him.

“I need help and I am turning to those that have an interest in seeing this case closed to the advantage of all of us,” Schnabel commented. “In this time of need, I ask you to contribute to Schnabel Lumber Company whatever assistance you can afford.”

In the original court action, SEACC, represented by the Sierra Club Defense Fund, sued Schnabel Lumber Company and the State of Alaska over a long-term timber sale in the Haines area, which preservationists said would destroy eagle habitats and eagles themselves. The timber sale was the result of an extensive land use plan, compiled by local governments of the Haines area and the State, which addressed the eagle’s needs. A special study conducted by the Haines-Kukwan Resource Study Group also showed that logging would not be detrimental to eagles utilizing the Chilkat River Valley.

Schnabel has been logging in the Haines area for 41 years. Today the eagle population is reportedly at an all-time high recorded in the valley. The Schnabel sawmill and other logging operations are the major private employers in the Haines area.

According to Paula Easley, Executive Director of the Resource Development Council, the preservationists have made a nationwide effort to turn the entire Chilkat Valley into an eagle haven to the discouragement of all other land uses. “Scientific research has shown eagles are not harmed by logging,” Easley said. “Yet preservationists have instigated a land lock-up in the Haines area.”

An escrow account for the Schnabel Legal Defense Fund has been established at the law firm of Faulkner, Bonfield, Holmes, & Duggan, & Holmes, 311 S. Franklin, Fairbanks. Continued on page 9

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Dow Crude Oil Processing Plant – Oyster Creek, Texas

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Dow Crude Oil Processing Plant – Oyster Creek, Texas

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Oil Company Executive Takes Exception To Tax

Subsistence Issue Sparks Discussion at RNC Meeting

In a recently published position paper, the Resource Development Council (RDC) expressed reservations about the mineral exploration and extraction tax proposed by the state. The council's concern is that the tax would disproportionately affect small, subsistence-focused companies, potentially stifling exploration and development that is vital to Alaska's economy.

The council's chief concern is with the tax's impact on small, subsistence-focused companies. It argues that these companies often lack the financial resources to bear the burden of the tax. The council recommends a more balanced approach that takes into account the unique challenges faced by these companies.

The council also suggests that the tax be structured to encourage responsible resource development. They propose a tiered system where smaller, more subsistence-focused companies would be subject to lower tax rates.

Subsistence hunters and farmers have long been a vital part of Alaska's ecosystem. They are靠 their ability to provide sustainable and nutritious food. The council argues that policies that support these practices are essential for the state's long-term sustainability.

The council's stance is supported by a number of other organizations and individuals who believe that a more nuanced approach to tax policy is needed to ensure the state's economic growth does not come at the expense of its cultural heritage and environmental values.
occurring both in and out of Alaska. Alaskans. economics and possible routes of making a railroad connection with the Arctic shores. At the mechanics wilderness could not be justified by areas.

settlement of public lands; as well as to provide transportation for military resources to their greatest potential. Development of resources, and in the extraction of our oil resources, Alaska is not the case today. Even though the state presently has not the financial means to acquire the ARR, it is not the ARR's role in any future resource marketing. It was proposed that the federal government launch a determined effort to find a possible buyer for the railroad with the State of Alaska being the most likely candidate. Participants of the conference, representing a cross-section of legislators, government personnel, private industrial companies, and the public from different areas of the state, felt the state should acquire all the federal interest in the ARR. Additionally, it was concluded that the state's interest should include not only all the existing facilities but also those rights-of-way would be required to cross federal lands in any future extension of railroad lines, whether eastward to Canada or elsewhere. However, these conclusions were followed with several recommendations. It was strongly felt that the state should create a non-political entity apart from any existing state agency which would function as a separate corporate body. The role of the state would be to provide, as the owner, any major new infrastructure requirements. Such requirements might include capital investments in the railroad itself and terminal and port facilities which would enable private industry to procure and acquiring and marketing natural resources in the most reasonable and expedient manner. However, it was strongly urged that the state should not go into the railroad operating business in the manner of the federal government. This would require, from the start, that the state's policy be that the operation and management of the railroad be contracted to private industry.

Such a separation of interests would allow participation by the state in the various federal railroad programs. It would also allow the state to exercise its authority to acquire right-of-way and beyond their call." She added, "we were told (their Dow) policy is to employ people locally." She said Dow has employed many local high school graduates and provided them with considerable training.

"It's not the type of place you'd be reluctant to send your child to work in."...not like a pulp mill where there are clouds of smoke rising from the stacks. . . .

Petrochemical Plants, Continued...

Poland described Midland, Michigan - headquarters for Dow - as "very clean and prosperous, a community that would have served as the first Commissioner. Don Harris served as the first Commissioner. Resource Review regrets the error.