



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Governor Palin Comments on Stimulus Package**

February 16, 2009, Juneau, Alaska – Governor Sarah Palin today thanked Alaska Senator Lisa Murkowski and Congressman Don Young for their efforts to steer the massive federal stimulus package toward a greater emphasis on infrastructure projects that would create and retain private sector jobs.

The governor recognizes that some form of economic stimulus is necessary, but not the bill that passed the Congress Friday. She has advocated for a package that includes federal spending for infrastructure, tax breaks for individuals and small businesses, and measures to address the housing situation. The governor believes the current legislation is too large and is not sufficiently focused on these objectives.

While the congressional majority rejected their efforts, Gov. Palin appreciates Murkowski's and Young's attempt to jump-start the American economy without saddling states with operating budget expenditures that can't be sustained or increasing the national debt to an alarming degree.

"Congressman Young and Senator Murkowski did their best to achieve the right balance in the bill, but in the end the majority allowed the spending to balloon and encompass support for programs that don't respond to the problem at hand," the governor said.

The governor was especially supportive of Senator Murkowski's official Republican radio response to the president. "The senator's comments are spot-on. She points out that a large portion of the spending in the bill will not be timely, is not targeted at the private sector and will not be temporary."

As the United States increases the amount of debt that will be held by foreign countries, Gov. Palin said it's more important than ever to develop more domestic energy sources, rather than perpetuating a situation in which Americans import most of the oil they consume.

Meanwhile, the governor said that the administration and the Legislature should be careful about integrating federal stimulus money in the state operating budget. "We can't start new spending obligations with federal dollars that at some point would have to be picked up by the state, especially when we're already looking at a budget shortfall. It's not fair to Alaskans to create expectations about programs that wouldn't be sustainable, so we'll need to look at the federal funding on a case-by-case basis."

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