



UPCOMING EVENTS

**MARCH 31, 2011
WASHINGTON D.C.**

Coffee w/ Sen. Begich
Alaskans in D.C. visit with
Sen. Begich
[Dirksen Senate Office
Building](#)
Room SD 562
8:30 a.m. (Eastern)
[RSVP HERE](#)

**APRIL 16, 2011
KODIAK**

ComFish
Speech & Q/A
[Best Western Kodiak Inn](#)
3:30 p.m. (Alaska)

**APRIL 20, 2011
ANCHORAGE**

Commonwealth North

E-NEWSLETTER

March 28, 2011

Addressing the Legislature & Touring Southeast



Click to [watch](#) Sen. Begich's speech to the Alaska State Legislature. Listen to the speech [here](#). View photos of Sen. Begich's speech [here](#).

After a productive week in Alaska, the Senate resumes work today on numerous high profile issues, including balancing the federal budget, unrest in the Middle East and the tragic aftermath of the disaster in Japan.

I was pleased to address the [Alaska State Legislature last Tuesday](#) to update legislators and Alaskans on important developments in Washington, D.C. My speech focused on opportunities for Alaskans as we prepare for the competitive 21st century global economy. From Alaska's oil and gas potential, to investing in high-tech home-grown Alaska businesses, and focusing on the importance of educating our young people with math, engineering and science, it's the

Membership Lunch

[Dena'ina Center](#)

Noon (Alaska)

**APRIL 21, 2011
KENAI**

**Joint Kenai & Soldotna
Chamber of Commerce
Meeting**

[Kenai Merit Inn](#)

Noon (Alaska)

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Alaska entrepreneurial spirit and “can do” attitude that are key to our future growth and success.

I held town hall meetings in both Juneau and Ketchikan, met with the tourism industry and students at the University of Alaska Southeast. I also had an informative all-hands meeting at the Coast Guard station in Ketchikan and tour of the Ketchikan Shipyard. As always, Alaskans had great questions and it was a meaningful opportunity to hear your thoughts and concerns about federal issues and how they impact Alaska.

In the Capitol this week, I’ll continue to push for additional cuts in federal spending as part of an overall strategy for reducing the national deficit. As the economy recovers, we must help grow small businesses and prepare our young people for the increasingly technical jobs of the future.

Sincerely,



Senator Mark Begich

**We've Moved: Washington D.C. Office
Now Russell Senate Office Building 111**



If you are visiting Washington D.C. from Alaska, visit Sen. Begich's office at its new location in the Russell Senate Office Building, Room 111. The [new office](#) is in the same building and on the same floor but features more space for Alaskans to visit with Sen. Begich.

Begich Announces Legislation to Spur Development in Alaska, Tells President Obama to Focus on Alaska

Recognizing the key to Alaska’s long-term economic stability is the development of the state’s oil and gas resources, Sen. Begich announced measures that will help streamline the federal approval process for development in the state. In his joint address to the Alaska State Legislature, [Begich announced introduction of legislation](#) creating a federal coordinator who would oversee and streamline development in Alaska’s Outer-

Continental Shelf (OCS), and he urged serious discussion of which federal agency should have jurisdiction over air permitting. “Every single day I am standing up for Alaska and educating federal bureaucrats and members of Congress about our unique needs and challenges,” Begich said. [Begich also criticized President Obama](#) for his recent comments in Brazil where he said that America wants to be a “customer” for Brazilian oil and natural gas. “President Obama didn’t have to go all the way to Brazil to find a ‘new, safe and stable’ source of oil. Energy opportunities for the U.S. are right here in Alaska. We have to stop talking about increasing domestic production and actually invest in home-grown jobs.” Sen. Begich said Alaska must capitalize on its own assets to succeed in the 21st Century economy, focusing on cutting-edge resource development, seizing opportunities in the Arctic, and transforming Alaska’s technology-based economy for the future.

All Hands on Deck



Sen. Begich thanked Coast Guard members for their vigilance & public service during an all-hands meeting at the Ketchikan Coast Guard Station.

Begich Tells Oil Executives: More U.S. Energy Production Needed, Not Political Fixes

Congressional Democrats and the Obama administration should encourage America’s oil and gas industry to increase domestic production to enhance the nation’s energy security rather than punishing the industry with increased taxes and further restrictions on leases. That was [Sen. Begich’s message](#) to the top officials of the nation’s oil companies in a Washington, D.C., earlier this month organized by the American Petroleum Institute. Begich said with gasoline prices in America pushing \$4 a gallon, now is the time to increase oil production from U.S. sources and lessen the country’s demand on uncertain foreign oil. He said singling out the nation’s oil and gas industry for punitive tax increases and imposing “use it or lose it” penalties

on oil and gas leases is short-sighted and counter-productive. Begich was invited to meet with top oil and gas executives to provide a rundown on likely legislative actions affecting the industry. The top officials from the following companies attended: ConocoPhillips, Exxon, Shell, BP, Marathon, Anadarko and Parker Drilling.

Juneau Town Hall



Hosting a town hall in Juneau Sen. Begich spoke with Juneauites about energy costs, cutting the federal budget and creating jobs.

Begich Joins Alaska Delegation Introducing Maritime Lien Reform Act

Sen. Begich joined Sen. Lisa Murkowski and Rep. Don Young in [introducing the Maritime Lien Reform Act of 2011](#). The legislation would protect fishermen who hold Alaska commercial fishing permits and also would prohibit maritime liens from being imposed on permits and protect the right of fishermen to continue to earn a livelihood by engaging in commercial fishing. Similar legislation was introduced in 2006 and 2008 but neither bill became law. “Commercial fishing is the backbone of the economy in Alaska’s coastal communities and an individual’s fishing permit needs to be protected,” Sen. Begich said. “This bill will prevent fishermen from having a lien slapped on their ability to fish, and allow them to work through problems they may have. It will help keep permits in local communities and keep fishermen working.” Alaska law already prohibits liens on Alaska limited entry permits, but a court decision threw that into doubt by determining that a fishing license was subject to a maritime lien under Federal Admiralty Law. The decision has become the rationale for attempts to take Alaskan fishing permits in federal bankruptcy court and the legislation is the best way to protect these permits and fishermen.

Ketchikan Ship and Drydock



Sen. Begich gets a tour of Alaska Ship & Drydock in Ketchikan from Randy Johnson.

ATHENA Society Luncheon



Sen. Begich and Sen. Murkowski congratulate 2011 ATHENA Award recipient Jane Angvik at the 2011 Anchorage ATHENA Society Luncheon.

Hydropower Improvement Act Supported by Begich

Sen. Begich is co-sponsoring the Hydropower Improvement Act of 2011, a bill designed to substantially increase the capacity and generation of clean, renewable hydropower resources that will improve environmental quality and support local job creation and economic investment across the nation. “If you want to be serious about renewable energy, hydropower has to be part of the discussion. Nowhere is that more true than Alaska, which holds over a third of our country’s untapped hydropower,” Begich said. “This legislation shows the way. We can develop fish-friendly hydro sites that lower ratepayers costs. It’s that simple.” The Act establishes a competitive grants program and directs the Energy Department to produce and implement a plan for the research, development and

demonstration of increased hydropower capacity and provides the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission with the authority to extend preliminary permit terms; to work with federal resource agencies to make the review process more efficient for conduit and small hydropower projects; and to explore a possible two-year licensing process for hydropower development at non-powered dams and closed loop pumped storage projects.

