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Daily News Opinion

COMPASS: *Other points of view*

Alaska's future will be powered by unlimited clean energy

By **JIM ADAMS**

Oilman T. Boone Pickens said it best about our energy crisis: "This is one emergency we can't drill our way out of."

High fuel prices, a worsening economy, a warming climate and foreign relations complicated by America's addiction to oil all cry out for something more than more of the same. Moving Alaska and America to a clean-energy future is a good place to start.

Imagine a world where everyone can plug their car (their whole car — not just the block heater) into the same outlet they use to charge their cell phones.

Imagine heating and cooling our homes not with expensive gas or oil but with geothermal energy piped in from Alaska's volcanoes.

Imagine flipping on the television and knowing the big game was being brought to you by cheap, clean elec-



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tricity generated from wind power and not from dirty coal.

That's the near future, if we want it.

Good examples of this future abound here in Alaska, where we enjoy world-class renewable energy resources. Several rural Alaska communities already use wind energy to displace diesel fuel. The Legislature jump-started a 50-100 megawatt wind project at Fire Island with a \$25 million investment this spring. Two companies are already explor-

ing the geothermal resource at Mount Spurr. They spent \$3.5 million on leases there earlier this month. Another will soon install a pilot tidal power project in Knik Arm. Hydroelectric resources are also plentiful and already supply a significant share of the state's energy.

All of these renewable energy technologies are part of a solution that will free us from our addiction to fossil fuels, reduce our energy bills, recharge America's economy, create good paying jobs, and solve the cli-

mate crisis.

Congress can help lead a clean energy revolution and develop "Made-in-America" solutions.

Instead of handing billions of dollars in subsidies to an oil and gas industry already flush with billions in record profits, Congress should use that money to promote clean, renewable energy and extend clean energy tax credits to the wind and solar industries. These tax credits would help build an industry that in 2006 generated 8.5 million jobs and nearly \$970 billion in revenue in America.

Many members of Congress agree. Legislation promoting renewable energy sources like solar, wind, and geothermal has passed the House again and again, only to fall short each time in the Senate, once by just a single vote. Renewable energy deserves congressional support.

Passing comprehensive, cap-and-

trade-based climate change legislation is another part of the clean energy revolution. The Climate Security Act, which gained 54 supporters in the Senate this past spring, would reduce our oil imports and save Americans \$180 billion through the year 2030 on foreign oil expenditures alone, according to the Department of Energy.

Instead of chasing the last barrel of oil, we need to demand a new energy economy that reduces dependency on expensive fossil fuels. American families deserve a consumer-friendly, clean energy policy that invests in renewable energy and energy conservation. It makes sense; it is in our reach. Alaska, with renewable energy resources second to none, can help lead the way.

Jim Adams is director of the Alaska Office of the National Wildlife Federation.

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Letters to the Editor

Gov. Palin need not explain firing

Gov. Palin doesn't have to explain why she terminated an employee. "At will" means with or without a reason, you may be terminated, and she has that authority. We're wasting the taxpayers' dollars because of personal feelings.

Walt Monegan, get over it and take it like a man. You're embarrassing the rest of us Alaska Natives.

Also, Lyda Green, when you speak about our governor, please do so with respect.

FYI, I'm supporting Obama.

— Sandy Shroyer Beaver
Kotzebue

Governor should have said no

It's comforting to see pictures of Gov. Palin shaking hands with world leaders and reading of the compliments she's receiving for her good looks. We can add these experiences to her Russian insight to boost her foreign policy resume.



least one person, a segment producer, resigned after being reprimanded. It's bad enough to intimidate state employees but now the free press is being pressured. How long will this interference by politicians be tolerated?

— Frankie DeRossitt
Nikiski

McCain/Palin in attack mode

If you think our country is better off now than it was eight years ago, raise your hand.

Now we find that Bush campaign people are handling Gov. Palin's VP run. And by handling, it means feeding her lines and running the show. Where is the "change" and "reform" in that?

Since Gov. Palin has entered the race, notice how cruel the McCain/Palin campaign has become. Why is Gov. Palin insulting everyone and every idea that is outside her agenda? If it is "lines" being given to her by the McCain campaign team I hope she can overcome it and