



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 17, 2012

For More Information: Ron Clarke, (907) 723-6840, ronclarke56@gmail.com

ELECTION COMPROMISED **ON COASTAL PLAN VOTE**

‘Vote No on 2’ campaign fails to reveal funding sources

The Alaska Sea Party, proponents of restoring Alaska’s coastal management program, today demanded the group “Vote No On 2” remove its commercials from the air until it complies with state law. Simultaneously, the Alaska Sea Party lodged a complaint with the Alaska Public Offices Commission (APOC), its second, against opponents of Ballot Measure 2 for violating Alaska campaign law.

“Every television commercial from ‘Vote No On 2’ is required to have an audible disclosure of its top three contributors, but our opponents have ignored the law,” said former Alaska Attorney General and Alaska Sea Party Chair Bruce Botelho. “The potential for unlimited donations and blatant election-buying from Outside sources are the reasons for the law, and obscuring their funding is particularly egregious given the hundreds of thousands of dollars the opposition has received from Outside industry.”

-more-

This message paid for and approved by
The Alaska Sea Party: Restoring Coastal Management
Bruce Botelho, Chair - 217 Second St., Ste. 200, Juneau, Alaska 99801 - (907) 500-7925
Top contributors: North Slope Borough (Barrow, Alaska); Bristol Bay Native Corporation (Anchorage, Alaska); Alaska
Conference of Mayors (Juneau, Alaska).

Alaska law requires television and Internet video advertisements to disclose, both in writing and clearly spoken, the three largest donors of funds to the campaign. Initiative opponents have failed to audibly identify donors in their television ads and Facebook videos.

The top three contributors at the time the ads started running were the Alaska Miners Association, Shell Oil Company, and the Alaska Oil and Gas Association (AOGA). ConocoPhillips and ExxonMobil have since replaced AOGA and Shell in Vote No's website disclaimer, meaning Conoco and Exxon have contributed more than the approximately \$80,000 contributed by AOGA and the \$150,000 from Shell.

"We expect the Alaska Public Offices Commission to undertake immediate enforcement action," Botelho said. "If this group is later determined to be in violation of the law, yet allowed to continue its illegal activities through to voting day, then our entire election process will have been compromised. It does a disservice to Alaska voters to delay a decision at this point in the campaign. Given the amounts of money being used to defeat the initiative, the fines that could be levied will simply be treated as a minor cost of doing business."

The Alaska Sea Party's first APOC complaint challenged the failure of "Vote No on 2" to comply with the legal requirement that a group's name reflect the issue or the goal they seek, not simply express opposition to or support of a particular measure. "No On 2' is not a name that complies with state law," Botelho said. The APOC has yet to act on the complaint.

A recent APOC report revealed nearly 70% of the money collected by the group opposing the grassroots citizens' initiative came from outside of Alaska or outside the U.S., and out-of-state money continues to accumulate. The next APOC report on campaign funding is due August 21, 2012.

-more-

The Alaska Sea Party is a group of municipal officials, local leaders, and interested voters committed to restoring Alaska's voice in coastal development decisions. Top contributors are the North Slope Borough, the Bristol Bay Native Corporation, and the Alaska Conference of Mayors. More than 33,000 Alaska citizens signed a petition to place the issue before voters statewide. Voters will decide on Ballot Measure No. 2 at the Alaska Primary Election on August 28, 2012.