

Provost, Kathryn T (GOV)

From: Governor Sarah Palin (GOV sponsored)
Sent: Friday, July 11, 2008 8:52 AM
To: 'jlar555@velocity.net'
Subject: RE: Transportation

Thank you for writing to Alaska Governor Sarah Palin. The concerns, opinions, and/or information you have sent are important and valuable to the Governor. Although she is unable to respond to each and every email herself, your message has been received and is being reviewed by the appropriate staff person in this office who can best address your need, suggestion, or comment.

-----Original Message-----

From: WebMail@govweb.alaska.gov [mailto:WebMail@govweb.al] **TRACK #08-7184**
Sent: Thursday, July 10, 2008 2:23 PM **Due: 07-29-08**
To: Governor Sarah Palin (GOV sponsored)
Subject: Transportation

Web mail from: Mr. Joe LaRocca
address: 9260 West Main Rd. North East (Erie County) PA 16428
(814) 725-8926

MESSAGE:

Dear Governor Palin,

You may know that a longtime Alaskan from Fairbanks, W.T. Reeves - who once discussed with you his steadfast belief that the northernmost eight miles of the James Dalton Highway (the haul road), belong to the general public, not the oil companies operating on the North Slope - died on June 9 of metastatic pancreatic cancer.

As you know, the general public is barred by Big Oil and certain government stakeholders from traveling on that section of the haul road - illegally, W.T. has long maintained - and thus is unable to access the Arctic Ocean shore, a symbolic as well as practical restriction. Only tour bus and oil companies or their surrogates are allowed to bring travelers and visitors there.

The purpose of this letter is to seek your assistance in continuing W.T.'s long and unstinting battle to reassert the public's legitimate claim to that section of the road in hopes of posthumously fulfilling his longheld dream.

While you are unacquainted with me, I met W.T. for the first and only time on one of my return visits to Fairbanks several years ago, when he sought me out to seek my input into his haul road crusade.

I lived and worked as a news journalist in Alaska for 20 years, from the late 1960s through the late 1980s, primarily covering the legislature and government, along with their political interactions with the North Slope oil companies for both Alaska and non-Alaska news media, including the New York Times. Among other things, I'm the author of a book published in 2004 entitled "Alaska Agonistes: The Age of Petroleum - How Big Oil Bought Alaska."

*State Hwy 95s end
Coke Collier
Drove East*

In that context, I covered and reported on the design, construction and operation of both the haul road and the trans Alaska pipeline for many years.

W.T. had excavated some of my writings from that period to support his position on the haul road, and subsequently contacted me frequently by phone and e-mail - up until just a few weeks ago before his untimely death - to keep me updated on his progress and strategy, and to seek my continuing input. On several occasions, including the last, he expressed the desire that I would actively participate in this quest.

Now that W.T. is gone, with no one else to carry on, I've discussed with his wife Alice in Fairbanks, the prospect of obtaining all W.T.'s files on the haul road and attempting to carry on his haul road campaign. Mrs. Reeves enthusiastically concurs.

Can you tell me whether you have formed any opinion or reached any conclusions with respect to W.T.'s longheld contention that the oil companies are illegally barring the general public from direct access to the Arctic Ocean shore, and that the northernmost eight miles of the haul road is within the public - rather than Big Oil's private - realm.

I hope to be in touch with you and your staff as I pursue these questions on W.T.'s memorial behalf.

The ideal outcome to this effort would be the restoration of the northernmost section of the haul road to the public realm, which would then be named "W.T. Reeves Memorial Boulevard."

Sincerely,

Joe LaRocca

9260 West Main Road,

North East, PA 16428

(814) 725-8926

jlar555@velocity.net

jlar555@velocity.net