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Subject: Spotlight: Lt. Gov. Mallott Focuses on Policy to Combat Climate Change

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Alaskans team up to develop innovative response to climate change

Lt. Governor Byron Mallott explains how Alaskans are shaping their future through sustainability-minded policy

Lt. Gov. Byron Mallott, Alaska

Alaska is on the front lines of climate change. As the only Arctic region in the United States, Alaska is warming twice as fast as the rest of the country, forcing communities to adapt to changing environmental conditions. From declining sea ice to thawing permafrost, forest fires, and ocean acidification, the impacts of climate change are visible across our state.

As a former commercial fisherman and a clan leader of the Tlingit tribe, I intimately understand how Alaska Natives and non-Natives alike depend on our bounty of natural resources. As a grandfather and great-grandfather, I acknowledge that the prosperity of future generations of Alaskans depends on our ability to balance economic growth with environmental stewardship. For the past 50 years, Alaska has been a pioneer in resource development; it is now time for us to apply that same ingenuity and innovation to a transition to a renewables-based future.

In recognition of the need to implement a collective response to climate change, Governor Bill Walker established the Alaska Climate Change Strategy and the Climate Action for Alaska Leadership Team in October 2017. I serve as chair of the climate leadership team, composed of experts and community leaders with backgrounds in science, industry and entrepreneurship, community planning, natural resources, environmental advocacy and policymaking. This team is charged with developing a range of climate solutions informed by the best available science, integration of local and indigenous knowledge, and consideration of Alaska's economic interests. The team will present its

recommendations to the Governor in September 2018.

Read More About Climate Action for Alaska

NLGA's 'Member Spotlight' highlights the unique, innovative and solutions-driven initiatives being led by its members across the states and territories.

Stay tuned for the next Member Spotlight!

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