

## **Fairbanks Daily News Miner**

### **Rep. Don Young blasts federal regulations, intrusions**

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FAIRBANKS – Rep. Don Young treated a local Republican luncheon crowd to a forceful speech on Friday, decrying the “socialists” who have swelled the size of government in the past year and bemoaning regulations that he says continue to limit development in Alaska.

It was a typically blunt assessment by Young, who has been Alaska’s sole representative since 1973, and he made no apologies.

“God help us if we all become milquetoast,” he told the group of about 50 people at the Westmark Hotel.

Young, who is running for another term in Congress this year, said he’ll continue to serve until “God decides or you decide” it’s time for him to go. He faces a Republican primary challenge from Sheldon Fisher, a former vice president at Alaska Communications Systems. Fisher spoke in Fairbanks last week.

Young said the need for forceful, honest representation in Washington is needed now more than ever. He said recent government actions in banking, health care, insurance and the automotive industry are a symptom of a system that is encroaching on every aspect of American life.

He had particularly harsh words for Democrats’ newly passed health-care reform bill, which he said creates a regulatory structure with twice as many pages as a typical King James Bible.

Contrary to claims by supporters, he said the bill won’t achieve its goal of improving health care.

“It has nothing to do with health care — it’s about control,” he said.

Young said he hoped Alaska would join other states in challenging the law in court. He believes its mandate that everyone buy health insurance is potentially unconstitutional.

The issue ties in with Young’s belief that the federal government is often claiming territory that should be handled by the states.

“I’d like to dissolve the United States federal government and reinstate the United States of America,” he said, words that generated a round of applause from the audience.

He also had plenty of criticism for the federal regulatory burdens that he believes have stifled mining, timber and oil exploration in Alaska.

The combination is creating a country that’s incapable of creating its own wealth, he said. Without resource development, America’s economy is based on “getting funny money from China and creating jobs that don’t produce anything.”

Without that engine to drive the economy, Young said the United States won’t be able to keep up with emerging powers like India and China.

“Realistically, what they’re doing is making this nation a second-rate nation,” he said.

He said the Obama administration’s recent announcement to expand offshore drilling is a charade, designed to divert criticism once gasoline prices spike this summer. He said studies and heavy-handed oversight will nullify any new areas that have ostensibly been opened to drilling.

“Believe me, there will not be any development of the Chukchi Sea under this administration,” he said.

Young also defended his continued request for budget earmarks, a controversial move that puts him at odds with other Republicans. The GOP House leadership asked its members for a one-year moratorium

on earmark requests, which have been blasted by both Republicans and Democrats as contributors to an expanding federal budget.

Young's use of earmarks has been particularly controversial. A \$10 million earmark by Young for a road project in Florida is the subject of a federal investigation, which resulted in GOP House colleagues stripping him of his seniority.

But Young said earmarks are a constitutionally sound form of budgeting that are preferable to vast sums of federal money being distributed by unelected bureaucrats.

Even if some people think of the requests as wasteful, someone back home is always a supporter, he said.

"I've never requested an earmark you didn't ask for," he said.