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To: undisclosed-recipients:;

Subject: Walker VS Begish

Dear Friends...

I feel like I must speak out on the upcoming race for Governor; I'm writing this from the perspective of a progressive. And full disclosure, I spent 10 weeks working almost full time on Bill Walker's 2014 campaign. I will admit that although I was aware that Walker was a life-long Republican much of my motivation was driven by my overwhelming desire to knock off Sean Parnell.

I felt that Walker would at least be better than Parnell. And considering he was elected with Democratic and progressive votes he would hopefully champion some of our issues.

First let's be clear, Walker was dealt a horrible hand. A huge dive in oil prices resulting in massive deficits, I get that. So, he cut the permanent fund dividend in half, cut the hell out of the budget and proposed a lot of new taxes. I have no problem with that, schools, roads, bridges, funding for a dozen agencies etcetera. Civilization costs money.

But what really pisses me off, is at a time when he want's Alaskans to pay more and get less, he never stood up to the oil giants and demanded that they pay more. These oil giants took from 9 to 13 billion dollars a year worth of Alaska's oil during his 4 years in office, and when you add in the infrastructure tax credits that the state pays them, there were several years that Alaska was literally paying these multinational corporation to take our oil. Walker never raised any stink. I'm sorry that is B. S. Don't give me that crap. Even Sara Palin got in the filthy rich oil giants' faces and told them you guys are gonna pay more, and they did.

Another painful issue was Walker's pledge not to get involved in the social wars. Great, but what happened? Soon after the election the state joined eight other deep-south super red states in a suit discriminating against marriage equality. There was some weak excuse that it was his Attorney General that did the dirty deed. But again, it was Walker who hired him and he never said a peep.

Perhaps the biggest disappointment has been Walker's wildlife policies. There has been little difference between Parnell and Walker when it comes to wildlife. One example, and there are many, is Walker's allowing a handful of hunters and trappers to lure Denali's iconic wolves and bears out of the park with bait and kill them. This is one of the great scandals in Alaska. Those wolves are worth ten-thousand times more alive than dead. And yet, even as wolf numbers plunged and viewership in Denali went from 50% to 4%, Walker dithered. The Fairbanks Northstar Borough Assembly passed a resolution urging the governor to act; a petition demanding protection for the wolves with 365,000 signatures was delivered. State wide, there were 75 letters to the editor, a dozen editorials and Alaska's State House passed HB105 specifically protecting the Denali wolves and bears. Those animals are a world-class resource. I feel confident that over 80% of those who voted for him hate what's happening there. And yet, with all that Bill Walker sat there and did nothing.

He does deserve some credit for opposing Pebble Mine but that was not much of a lift, even Trump's hit man Scott Pruitt opposed Pebble. He did accept federal money for

Medicaid, but then again, who's not going to take free money. He certainly cut less money from the university than Pete Kelly wanted, but again, without any effort to push the oil companies the state is hamstrung.

I feel a little sad to say this but I simply don't think Walker deserves the progressive vote. Bill Walker was and is definitely better than Sean Parnell, but that's about all.

In regards to Begich, we are going to have to wait and see where he stands on some of our specific issues, but unlike Walker, he is a lifelong Democrat from an iconic Democratic family, and as progressives we are going to have to press him on labor, wildlife, climate change and oil taxes, etcetera.

Don't hesitate to forward this to your friends. Let's all work like our democracy is at stake.

Sean McGuire