

The Alaska Natural Gas Pipeline will deliver 4 billion cubic feet of domestically produced natural gas each day to homes and businesses throughout the United States. Our pipeline will also create 400,000 new jobs nationwide.

Continued development of Alaska's resources, including oil and gas development on the arctic coastal plain and our outer continental shelf, could also help deliver the energy needed to power our Nation's economy.

Recent estimates show that the arctic coastal plain alone could deliver 1.5 million barrels of oil a day to market and contribute billions of dollars in corporate income tax revenues and royalties to the U.S. Treasury.

Alaskans began our journey to statehood in 1867 when the Secretary of State William Seward advocated for the purchase of the territory from Russia for a mere 2 cents an acre. At the time the decision was ridiculed as "Seward's folly."

Alaskans have worked hard to realize the full potential of our land and our people. There is no doubt Alaskans have lived up to the faith the Senate showed in us 50 years ago when it voted to grant us statehood. Alaskans have earned the name of our State, "the Great Land."

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I want to thank my senior colleague for his comments. It is rare that we have an opportunity to speak from such personal knowledge about the battle for statehood.

As he spoke, I imagined Senator STEVENS sitting up there in the galley watching this debate anxiously as the future of Alaska was being decided. So it is an honor to work with him representing the people of Alaska. But for him to be able to share this historical perspective is wonderful. Our neighbors to the south in Washington have worked with us on so many different issues over the years.

As I mentioned in my comments, Senator Jackson and Senator Magnuson were big advocates for statehood for the State of Alaska.

I am delighted that our colleague, Senator MURRAY, has agreed to join us in talking about Alaska's statehood.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. "Mr. President, let us vote for the 49th star in the flag." Those were the words from the great Senator from the State of Washington, Warren Magnuson, spoken on this floor in 1958, just before this body finally agreed to make Alaska one of the United States.

Today, I am very pleased to join our colleagues from the north in Alaska to say a warm congratulations to the people of Alaska on this 50th anniversary of their statehood. Alaska's statehood, as you heard, was controversial a half century ago. But I think time has proven that the United States is a greater Nation thanks to the Land of the Midnight Sun.

As Senator MURKOWSKI has said, Washington State's Senators, Warren

Magnuson and Henry Jackson, were some of Alaska's greatest friends. Their advocacy helped to sway this Senate that Alaskans were ready to join the Union. Today I want to give you a flavor of that debate at the time and their role in it.

Back in 1958, Alaska's statehood had already been an issue for 42 years, and legislation to make it a State had been introduced in every Congress since 1943.

As Senator Jackson said in one speech that led up to that final vote that Congress had held 11 hearings, two of them in Alaska, and others here in Washington, DC. And more than 4,000 pages of testimony had been published.

"It was time to put the issue to rest," he argued, and I quote:

There can be no doubt that the record is complete. Our objective is statehood. It can be achieved now.

Those were the words of Senator Jackson back then. And as the debate continued, Senators Magnuson and Jackson were confident that Alaska was ready.

Senator Magnuson argued that with 180,000 citizens, Alaska had more residents than Missouri, Kansas, Arkansas, Alabama, Nevada, Idaho, and 21 other States when they were admitted into the Union. He pointed out to this body that Alaska was strategically located between the United States and the Soviet Union and that it was home to two important military bases at the time right when the Cold War was escalating.

He dismissed the argument that Alaska could not support itself as a State because that argument had not held up when it was used for his own State of Washington.

He said:

Alaskans feel confident that they can lick this problem as they have met and solved others. I say, we should give them that opportunity.

So in Senator Magnuson's mind, the controversy was very similar to a family argument about whether a child was ready to leave home. He said:

These United States, like fearful parents, can waver further in indecision, and allow our lack of confidence to undermine Alaskans and say, "You will be ready for statehood someday, but not now." Or we can be proud of Alaskans' determination to strike out for their true independence through their own real self government.

"The United States should follow through the second course," Magnuson said.

He said:

The territory feels entitled to sit and deliberate with us—be one of us. Alaska wants to work out her own future, just as each of the other 48 partners in our nation have been allowed to do. Alaska's hopes, aspirations, and quiet self-confidence are understandable. She knows that her resources, her people, and their combined potential spell a brilliant future.

Alaska has sat impatiently in the anteroom of history for 42 years. Alaska should be a State.

I am very proud of the role Washington's two Senators played in this de-

bate at the time. Alaska's road to statehood was long and it was hard. But Alaskans are some of the toughest people around. They fought for their rights. They did not give up. And they prevailed.

So as they celebrate across their State I wish them a happy and a successful future. I want to close by once more quoting Senator Magnuson's words to the people of Alaska.

He said:

We approve and commend your vision, understand and believe your hopes, know that your mission and goal can and will be reached, so good luck and godspeed.

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I am honored to stand and speak today on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the legislation establishing Alaska as our 49th State. I continue a tradition of sorts: A former Idaho Senator, Frank Church, stood in this same chamber 50 years ago, May 5, 1958, to be exact, to call for Alaska's statehood.

Let me begin, if I may, with the words Senator Church recited that day:

Wild and wide are my borders,
Stern as death is my sway,
And I will wait for the men who will win me—
And I will not be won in a day;
And I will not be won by weaklings,
Subtle, suave and mild,
But by men with the hearts of Vikings
And the simple faith of a child;
Desperate, strong and restless,
Unthrottled by fear or defeat,
Them I will guild with my treasure,
Them I will glut with my meat.
Send me the best of your breeding,
Lend me your chosen ones,
Them I will take to my bosom,
Them I will call my sons.

These lines come from a poem entitled, "The Law of the Yukon," and were written by Robert W. Service, a Canadian poet who traveled north, caught up in the fever of the Klondike Gold Rush. The poem was inspired by the majesty of the land of the Northwest Territories and the Alaska territory, and for Senator Church set the stage for an impassioned, intricately argued plea for Alaska's statehood.

Senator Church spoke that day of taxation without representation. He referenced the treaty by which the United States acquired Alaska which said that the inhabitants of the Territory "shall be admitted to the enjoyment of all the rights, advantages and immunities of citizens of the United States, and shall be maintained and protected in the free enjoyment of their liberty." Senator Church asked this body the question: "Can it be that ours, too, will be the error of the Roman senate, which sapped the vitality and strength from the Roman Republic, refusing to extend the right of franchise, until government became a mockery, empty of empty of principle . . .?"

Fortunately for the United States in this matter, right prevailed that year, and those calling for Alaska's statehood were vindicated in their tireless quest.