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**Lieutenant Governor Sean Parnell's Prepared Text in Response
to Governor Palin's Announcement**

(July 3, 2009 Anchorage, Alaska) – Lieutenant Governor Sean Parnell has released his prepared remarks in response to Governor Palin's announcement.

Thank you, governor. It is with a heavy heart that I hear these words. I so appreciate what you have done for our state and your sacrificial service. You have been a strong leader for our state, you've inspired a nation, and you've ignited the fire of real hope around the world.

I profoundly respect your decision for I know the depth of character and integrity from which it springs. Rare, indeed, are such selfless acts seen in the public arena.

Governor Palin has recounted well the achievements of the last two and a half years and I want to take a moment to assure Alaskans of the good team in place to move Alaska forward and to speak briefly about what Alaskans can expect.

We've got an extremely talented team of commissioners and I intend to keep them working hard for our state. I will work with the governor to coordinate with the cabinet and staffs on a seamless, stable transition. And, I will work closely with legislators, community leaders, and individual Alaskans to accomplish these ends.

I came into office believing and still strongly believe that the power, rights, and responsibilities of our government belong to the people. Alaskans can expect me to focus on positioning Alaska for economic growth by creating legacy opportunities for our people and future generations.

My top priority is to get a gasline. I will continue the course set by the governor that has produced such forward progress these past two years. I will continue to support and promote responsible resource development and energy development of all kinds for Alaskans.

State government will live within its means and we will provide a stable investment climate for job creation. We remain committed to education, safe homes, and transportation. We proudly and resolutely support our military, veterans, and their families, and we will protect second amendment rights. Perhaps most importantly, we cherish life and liberty.

I thank Governor Palin for holding fast to these principles during her service. Personally, I thank her for the confidence she's placed in me, for her trust, and for her friendship. As Alaska celebrates her 50th year of statehood, I believe history will look back on Sarah Palin as one of Alaska's great gifts to all peoples. You have served honorably, Governor. God bless you.

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