There's a good chance your job depends on petroleum.

ALASKA'S ECONOMY:

For more information on Alaska's economy, visit these Web sites:

www.iser.uaa.alaska.edu

• “Investing for Alaska’s Future”

www.prosperityalaska.org

www.aedcweb.com

This is part 2 of a 4-part series explaining how Alaska’s economy works. Scott Goldsmith, a professor of economics at the Institute of Social and Economic Research at the University of Alaska Anchorage, did the analysis. This message is brought to you by Alaskan-owned and operated businesses concerned about the future of the Alaska economy.

Part 3 of this series will describe challenges Alaska faces as oil production continues to fall.

ALASKA’S ECONOMY

Understand it. Support it. Grow it.
Petroleum has generated most of the economic growth in Alaska since statehood. But it’s easy to underestimate just how important petroleum is, because its economic contributions are not all obvious.

But that’s not all: petroleum has also put the whole economy on firmer ground.

Petroleum has transformed the economy, making it not only bigger but stronger and less seasonal. Because of petroleum, money coming into Alaska now stays here longer, supporting many more jobs and a wider variety of local businesses.

It also helps other resource industries.

State taxes on many other industries are lower than they would otherwise be, because petroleum generates such big revenues. So costs for other industries are lower—which can help them compete better and expand their operations.

And there’s a future benefit.

When the state invests petroleum revenues in roads, schools, job training, and more, it not only helps the economy today. It’s also a legacy for Alaska’s future.

First, we can trace a third of all Alaska jobs directly to petroleum.

The petroleum sector itself spends money in Alaska, and the state government spends its petroleum revenues. Those two kinds of spending create jobs in every corner of Alaska. One of them may be yours.