

**Susan Bell**  
Commissioner

P.O. Box 110800  
Juneau, AK 99811-0800

[www.commerce.alaska.gov](http://www.commerce.alaska.gov)

SEAL OF THE STATE OF ALASKA  
**STATE OF ALASKA**

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE,  
COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**Mark Kelsey**  
Communications  
Coordinator

907.269.7387  
[mark.kelsey@alaska.gov](mailto:mark.kelsey@alaska.gov)

## Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
September 22, 2010

No. 10-21

### **DCCED represents state at international forum**

Anchorage, Alaska – As part of its ongoing efforts to increase economic opportunities for Alaska families and businesses, the Parnell administration traveled to Portland, Oregon, last week to participate in the 15th annual meeting of the Russian American Pacific Partnership (RAPP).

Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development Deputy Commissioner Curtis Thayer represented Alaska on September 14-15 at the RAPP conference, which is the only U.S.-Russian bilateral forum with a trans-Pacific geographical focus that partners business and government. In addition to working to advance cooperation and economic opportunity between Eastern Russia and the Western United States, the partnership identifies and addresses barriers to commerce between the two regions. Among the topics of discussion this year were ongoing efforts to manage and defend fishing treaties and ways to increase cross-Strait tourism opportunities.

“In these challenging economic times, it is reassuring to know the quality of our friendships and opportunities in the Russian Far East,” Thayer said. “Gov. Parnell has made economic growth and job creation a priority of his administration. Partnerships like this one benefit everyone on both sides of the Bering Strait.”

Good economic relations between the United States and Russia mean greater opportunity for mutually beneficial cooperation among public- and private-sector entities in both countries. Over the years, RAPP annual meetings have led to collaboration and advances in science, technology, industry and commerce.

“The U.S. and the North Pacific Rim represent a leading economic region in the world. Both are rich in resources and human capital and have prospects for tremendous growth,” said Derek Norberg, U.S. director of RAPP. “We appreciate the active participation of Gov. Parnell’s administration and we thank Alaska for joining in this collective effort to support and promote bilateral collaboration.”



The Russian American Pacific Partnership enjoys continued support from the private sector and among senior government officials and agencies of both nations, including: U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Agency for International Development, U.S. Department of State, U.S. Western States, U.S. Senators and Representatives, U.S. Embassy in Moscow and Consulate in Vladivostok, Russian Federation Ministry for Economic Development, Russian Federation Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Russian Duma Deputies and Federal Council Members, Russian Governors, Mayors and regional associations, Russian Embassy and Consulates in the United States, and many others.

