



Homer Electric Association, Inc.

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February 4, 2011

House Labor and Commerce Committee
Representative Kurt Olson, Chair
Capitol Building, Room 24
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Chair Olson, Vice-Chair Johnson and members of the House Labor and Commerce Committee:

I would like to go on record in support of an amendment to House Bill 114 that would add language to the Electric and Telephone Cooperative Act (Act) allowing electric cooperatives to finance the purchase of weatherization and energy efficiency products and services. Currently, the Act only allows cooperatives to finance the purchase of electrical and plumbing appliances, fixtures and apparatus.

Homer Electric Association, Inc. (HEA) has a Line of Credit program that offers financing to its members for the purchase of products covered under the Act. While this is a popular program, many of our members have inquired about using the Line of Credit program to purchase materials and products that would improve the energy efficiency of their home or business. Unfortunately, due to the limitations specified in the Act, HEA is unable to offer any assistance in the purchase of these types of products.

Homer Electric has worked very hard over the past several years to provide its members with information that will help lower their energy usage and manage their electric bill. Along with regular newsletter articles, web site information and media advertisements, HEA has sponsored Energy and Conservation Fairs to promote energy efficiency products and services. The fairs have attracted nearly 1,000 HEA members annually over the past two years.

As we continue to promote conservation, it makes sense to have energy efficiency and weatherization products included in the Line of Credit program.

We believe that HB 114 is an excellent bill and the proposed amendment will be a valuable addition to this legislation. Thank you for considering our request.

Sincerely,

Bradley P. Janorschke
General Manager