

Alaska State Legislature
REPRESENTATIVE BRYCE EDGMON
House District 37

SPONSOR STATEMENT FOR CSHB196 (FIN)

Adak
Akutan
Aleknagik
Atka
Chignik
Chignik Lagoon
Chignik Lake
Clark's Point
Cold Bay
Dillingham
Egegik
Ekwok
False Pass
Ivanof Bay
King Cove
King Salmon
Koliganek
Manokotak
Naknek
Nelson Lagoon
New Stuyahok
Nikolski
Perryville
Pilot Point
Portage Creek
Port Heiden
St. George
St. Paul
Sand Point
South Naknek
Togiak
Twin Hills
Ugashik
Unalaska

This proposed legislation will move the bulk fuel revolving loan fund (BFRLF) from the Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) to the Division of Community & Regional Affairs (DCRA), which will mean both the BFRLF and the bulk fuel bridge loan program will be housed in the same division.

Housing these two funds under one roof is something the House Energy committee considered last session, and also an idea the governor endorsed in his report to the Legislature regarding State energy programs.

Currently, if an applicant is rejected for a loan from the BFRLF, their next step is to apply for a bulk fuel loan through the bridge loan program. It makes perfect sense to have these related loan programs under the jurisdiction of one entity, and DCRA is the logical place for them to be housed.

HB196 will place both the bulk fuel loan account and the bulk fuel bridge loan account as separate accounts in the BFRLF, contains provisions for technical assistance for those borrowers needing help, and will streamline the whole process of obtaining bulk fuel loans for communities.

I would appreciate your support for this bill.