

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPT. OF HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES

Alaska Commission on Aging

SEAN PARNELL, GOVERNOR

P.O. BOX 110693
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811-0693
PHONE: (907) 465-3250
FAX: (907) 465-1398

March 2, 2012

The Honorable Lyman Hoffman, Co-Chair
The Honorable Bert Stedman, Co-Chair
Senate Finance Committee
Alaska State Capitol, Rooms 518 & 516
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Subject: Support for HB 65

Dear Chair Hoffman & Chair Stedman:

The Alaska Commission on Aging (ACoA) is pleased to offer our support for HB 65, a bill authored by Representatives Edgmon, Joule, Herron and Foster co-sponsored by Representatives Peggy Wilson, Kerttula, Tuck, Gardner, Kawasaki, Millet, and Gara. The purpose of this legislation is to expand the list of eligible applicants for Alaska Housing Finance Corporation's (AHFC) Senior Citizens Housing Development Fund (SCHDF) to include regional housing authorities in addition to municipalities, 501(c)3 and (4) nonprofit organizations. The SCHDF program is used specifically to increase the number of senior housing units for older Alaskans and to address the needs of a growing Alaska senior population whose incomes are in the low to moderate range. The SCHDF is a flexible funding tool that provides gap financing for the construction of mixed-income housing projects for older Alaskans and supports a variety of development needs. The ACoA endorses the inclusion of regional housing authorities as eligible applicants to increase the availability of quality and affordable senior housing to benefit older Alaskans in every region of the state, including rural and remote areas.

The ACoA supports passage of HB 65 to make these funds available for development of senior housing in rural and remote regions that are not adequately served by this program. Please feel free to contact Denise Daniello, ACoA's executive director (465-4879 or denise.daniello@alaska.gov) should you require additional information about our position. Thank you for your consideration and support of HB 65.

Sincerely,



Sharon Howerton-Clark
Chair, Alaska Commission on Aging

Sincerely,



Denise Daniello
ACoA Executive Director

Cc: Senator Johnny Ellis
Senator Dennis Egan
Senator Donald Olson
Senator Lesil McGuire
Senator Joe Thomas

Representative Reggie Joule
Representative Bryce Edgmon
Representative Bob Herron
Representative Neal Foster