

Association of Alaska Housing Authorities

Written Testimony to the House Community & Regional Affairs Committee

Tlingit-Haida Regional Housing Authority
PO Box 32237
Juneau, Ak 99803-2234
907-780-6868

Interior Regional Housing Authority
828 27th Avenue
Fairbanks, Ak 99701-6918
907-452-8315

North Pacific Rim Housing Authority
8300 King Street
Anchorage, Ak 99518
907-562-1444

Cook Inlet Housing Authority
3510 Spenard Rd, Suite 201
Anchorage, Ak 99503-2745
907-276-8822

Aleutian Housing Authority
4000 Old Seward Hwy, Suite 202
Anchorage, Ak 99503
907-563-2146
Tagiugmiullu Nunamiullu Housing Authority
PO Box 409
Barrow, Ak 99723
907-852-7150

Bristol Bay Housing Authority
PO Box 50
Dillingham, Ak 99576-0050
907-842-5956

Copper River Basin Regional Housing Authority
PO Box 89
Glennallen, Ak 99588
907-822-3633

AVCP Regional Housing Authority
PO Box 767
Bethel, Ak 99559-0767
907-543-3121

Baranof Island Housing Authority
PO Box 517
Sitka, Ak 99835-0517
907-747-5088

Bering Straits Regional Housing Authority
PO Box 995
Nome, Ak 99762-0995
907-443-5256

Alaska Housing Finance Corporation
4300 Boniface Parkway
Anchorage, Ak 99504
907-338-6100

Kodiak Island Housing Authority
3137 Mill Bay Rd
Kodiak, Ak 99615-7032
907-486-8111

Northwest Inupiat Housing Authority
PO Box 331
Kotzebue, Ak 99752-0331
907-442-3430

Ketchikan Indian Community
2960 Tongass Avenue
Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

Supporting HB 150

For Committee Meeting on March 12, 2009 at 8:00 a.m.

The Association of Alaska Housing Authorities' (AAHA) membership includes 14 Regional Housing Authorities created pursuant to AK Statute, 18.55, and the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation (AHFC).

AAHA is in strong support of HB 150.

In partnership with AHFC and an ever-growing list of other state and federal partners, AAHA members serve residents in every part of Alaska. The regional housing authorities have built well over 7,000 housing units since their inception in 1971 and collectively administer well over 100 million in federal and state funds on an annual basis. The vast majority of housing in rural Alaska has been built by AAHA members and AAHA's urban members are a strong presence in Alaska's larger communities. In addition to new construction, AAHA members provide a wide range of other housing and housing related services, including providing weatherization and other housing rehab services throughout the state, developing community infrastructure, and working with our partners like AHFC, are also one of the largest employers in rural Alaska, playing a critical role in helping to sustain many of our local bush economies.

Given the role that AAHA members play in meeting these critical human needs across our state, and given the role and impact of energy costs throughout Alaska, it is obvious that we would have an extremely strong interest in the legislation under consideration today, and the broader issues of both short and long-term state energy policies.

It is our understanding that HB150 continues changes to the Power Cost Equalization Program (PCE), which were approved by the Alaska State Legislature in last July's special session. The changes increase the state subsidy for the PCE Program from up to .52 per kilowatt hour to up to \$1.00 per kilowatt hour.

This legislation responsibly addresses the rising cost of energy in the state and the disparity in energy costs in certain parts of the state. Again, on behalf of our many member organizations, serving residents throughout Alaska, we strongly support HB 150.

Heather Arnett, Administrator, Assoc. of AK Housing Authorities
(907) 338-3970, 4300 Boniface Pkwy., Anchorage, AK 99504,
aaaha@alaska.net.

Akiak Native Community
Akiak IRA Council
P.O. Box 52127
Akiak, Alaska 99552
Phone: (907) 765-7112 Fax: (907) 765-7512

March 12, 2009

House Community & Regional Affairs Committee

Re: Testimony on HB 150

Honorable Co-Chairs and Members of the Committee:

First of all on behalf of the tribal members of the Akiak Native Community I would like to thank the Alaska Legislation addressing the energy needs and challenges ALL Alaskan's face, especially those in our area. The PCE program that was increased last year has helped our community a great deal and the program is critically needed.

This letter is to request that you continue to fund the PCE at a cost ceiling of \$1.00 per kWh. We also request that the PCE eligibility to businesses, health care facilities, and utilities be included in the program .

Again we appreciate your recognition of our communities energy needs throughout Alaska.

Sincerely,

IVAN M IVAN, CHIEF
Akiak IRA Council

Sheila Williams
Tribal Administrator

**ANVIK TRIBAL COUNCIL**

P.O. Box 10
ANVIK, AK 99558
(907) 663-6322
FAX (907) 663-6357

e-mail - anvik_tribal@yahoo.com

March 12, 2009

Representative Cathy Munoz
Alaska State Capital, Room 409
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Re: Testimony on HL 150

Dear Honorable Co-Chairs and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Native Village of Anvik, we want to thank the Alaska Legislatures efforts in addressing the energy need of all Alaskans, particularly those of our region which has been faced with challenging humanitarian issues stemming from the ever increasing electric and fuel costs. We are sincerely grateful for last year's increase in the ceiling of the PCE program which has been helping our community. The PCE program helps us to maintain the critical circulation of little income and revenue we are able to have in our village. The PCE program is a priority and we respectfully ask for:

Continuation of the PCE program and perpetuation of the eligible cost ceiling at \$1.00.

The AEA estimates FY2010 cost for retaining the \$1.00 ceiling at \$3.4 million. The bulk of our village income is dedicated to paying for the upkeep of energy, and if the PCE rate drops, our electric costs will go up immediately. We realized that our local utilities will have to collect on those fuel costs in order to recover from 2008. Our families simply cannot afford to pay for this when their energy cost are already taking up to 70% of their disposable income.

We ask respectfully that the legislature provide funding to continue PCE at a cost ceiling of \$1.00 per kilowatt-hour(kWh.) We are also asking you to consider increasing the household limit from 500kWh per moth to the national average of 750kWh per month. Our local economy is fragile and vulnerable and needs consideration in the PCE program. We are asking for a restoration of PCE eligibility to businesses, clinics, and other public facilities that were included in the program when it was originally enacted. This is critical to keep down inflation and increase the viability of our local economies in rural Alaska that are struggling or on the brink of failure.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Christine Elswick, Secretary/Treasure
Anvik Traditional Council



Emmonak Tribal Council

PO BOX 100
EMMONAK, ALASKA 99505
PHONE 907-827-1000
FAX 907-827-1000

March 12, 2009

House Community & Regional Affairs Committee

Re: Testimony on HB 150

Honorable Co-Chairs and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Native village of Emmonak we want to thank the Alaska Legislature's efforts in addressing the energy needs of all Alaskans, particularly those of our region which has been faced with challenging humanitarian issues stemming from the ever increasing electric and fuel costs. We are sincerely grateful for last year's increase in the ceiling of the PCE program which has been helping our community. The PCE program helps us to maintain the critical circulation of little income and revenue we are able to have in our village. The PCE program is a priority and we respectfully ask for:

Continuation of the PCE program and perpetuation of the eligible cost ceiling at \$1.00.

The AEA estimates the FY2010 cost of retaining the \$1.00 ceiling at \$3.4 million. The bulk of our village income is dedicated to paying for the upkeep of energy, and if the PCE rate drops, our electric costs will go up immediately. We realize that our local utilities will have to collect on those fuel costs in order to recover from 2008. Our families simply cannot afford to pay for this when their energy costs are already taking up to 70% of their disposable income.

We ask respectfully that the legislature provide funding to continue PCE at a cost ceiling of \$1.00 per kilowatt-hour (kWh.) and we are also asking you to consider increasing the household limit from 500kWh per month to the national average of 750kWh per month. Our local economy is fragile and vulnerable and needs consideration in the PCE program. We are asking for a restoration of PCE eligibility to businesses, clinics and other public facilities that were included in the program when it was originally enacted. This is critical to keep down inflation and increase the viability of our local economies in rural Alaska that are struggling or on the brink of failure.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Native Village of Emmonak



March 13, 2009

House Community & Regional Affairs Committee

Re: Testimony on HB 150

Honorable Co-Chairs and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Native Village of Georgetown I want to thank the Alaska Legislature's efforts in addressing the energy needs of all Alaskans, particularly those of our region which has been faced with challenging humanitarian issues stemming from the ever increasing electric and fuel costs. We are sincerely grateful for last year's increase in the ceiling of the PCE program which has been helping our community. The PCE program helps us to maintain the critical circulation of little income and revenue we are able to have in our village. The PCE program is a priority and we respectfully ask for:

Continuation of the PCE program and perpetuation of the eligible costs ceiling at \$1.00.

The AEA estimates the FY2010 cost of retaining the \$1.00 ceiling at \$3.4 million.

The bulk of our village income is dedicated to paying for the upkeep of energy, and if the PCE rate drops, our electric costs will go up immediately. We realize that our local utilities will have to collect on those fuel costs in order to recover from 2008. Our families simply cannot afford to pay for this when their energy costs are already taking up to 70% of their disposable income.

We ask respectfully that the legislature provide funding to continue PCE at a cost ceiling of \$1.00 per kilowatt-hour (kWh.) And we are also asking you to consider increasing the household limit from 500kWh per month to the national average of 750kWh per month. Our local economy is fragile and vulnerable and needs consideration in the PCE program. We are asking for a restoration of PCE eligibility to businesses, clinics and other public facilities that were included in the program when it was originally enacted. This is critical to keep down inflation and increase the viability of our local economies in rural Alaska that are struggling or on the brink of failure.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Amber Matthews

Tribal Administrator

Kotlik Yupik Corporation
P.O. Box 20207
Kotlik, Alaska 99620
(907) 899-4014 / 4634 Fax (907) 899-4528

March 12, 2009

House Community & Regional Affairs Committee

Re: Testimony on HB 150

Honorable Co-Chairs and Members of the Committee

On behalf of the Native village of Kotlik we want to thank the Alaska Legislature's efforts in addressing the energy needs of all Alaskans, particularly those of our region which has faced with challenging humanitarian issues stemming from the ever increasing electric and fuel costs. We are sincerely grateful for last year's increase in the ceiling of the PCE program which has been helping our community. The PCE program helps us to maintain the critical circulation of little income and revenue we are able to have in our village. The PCE program is a priority and we respectfully ask for:

Continuation of the PCE program and perpetuation of the eligible costs ceiling at \$1.00.

The AEA estimates the FY2010 cost of retaining the \$1.00 ceiling at \$3.4 million. The bulk of our village income is dedicated to paying for the upkeep of energy, and if the PCE rates drops, our electric costs will go up immediately. We realize that our local utilities will have to collect on those fuel costs in order to recover from 2008. Our families simply cannot afford to pay for this when their energy costs are already taking up to 70% of their disposable income.

We ask respectfully that the legislature provide funding to continue PCE at a cost ceiling of \$1.00 per kilowatt-hour (kWh.) And we are also asking you to consider increasing the household limit from 500kWh per month to the national average of 750kWh per month. Our local economy is fragile and vulnerable and needs consideration in the PCE program. We are asking for a restoration of PCE eligibility to businesses, clinics and other public facilities that were included in the program when it was originally enacted. This is critical to keep down inflation and increase the viability of our local economies in rural Alaska that are struggling or on the brink of failure.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,


NATIVE VILLAGE OF KOTLIK

MAR 12 2009

City of Kwethluk
P.O. Box 50
Kwethluk, Alaska -99621-

Phone: (907) 757 - 6022

Fax: (907) 757 -6497

March 11, 2009

House Community & Regional Affairs Committee
Juneau, Alaska

Re: Testimony on HB 150

Honorable Co-Chairs and Members of the Committee:

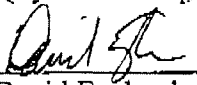
On behalf of the City of Kwethluk, we want to thank the Alaska Legislature's hard work in addressing the energy needs of all Alaskans, particularly those in our region which face humanitarian issues stemming from the continuous increase of our electrical and fuel costs. Many of us are grateful for last years increase in the ceiling of the Power Cost Equalization Program which has been assisting our community as a whole. The PCE program assists all of us to maintain the critical circulation of what little income and revenue we are able to have in our community. The PCE program is a priority and we respectfully ask for:

Continuation of the Power Cost Equalization Program and perpetuation of the eligible costs ceiling at \$1.00.


The AEA estimates the FY- 2010 cost of retaining the \$1.00 ceiling at \$3.4 million. The bulk of our community income is dedicated to paying for the upkeep of energy, and if the Power Cost Equalization Program rate drops, our electric costs will go up immediately. Our local utilities will have to collect on those fuel costs in order to recover from 2008. Our families cannot afford to pay for this when their energy costs are already taking up to 70% of their income.

City of Kwethluk asks respectfully that the State of Alaska legislature provide funding to continue PCE at a cost ceiling of \$1.00 per kilowatt-hour, and we ask that you consider increasing the household limit from 500kWh per month to the national average of 700kWh per month. Our local economy needs the PCE program to make ends meet. We are asking for restoration of PCE eligibility to businesses, clinics, schools, and other public facilities when it was originally enacted. This is critical to keep down inflation and increase the viability of our local economy in rural Alaska. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to comment.

Quyana cakneq,



David Epchook, Mayor


Alexie B. Morris, Jr., City Manager

NATIVE VILLAGE OF KWIGILLINGOK
KWIGILLINGOK I.R.A. COUNCIL
P.O. BOX 49
KWIGILLINGOK, ALASKA 99622-0049
PH: (907)588-8114/8212
FAX: (907)588-8429
kwkadmin@starband.net

RESOLUTION 02-04-09

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING A STATE FUEL CAP AND OTHER MEASURES TO LOWER THE COST OF ENERGY FOR REMOTE RURAL COMMUNITIES THROUGHOUT THE STATE OF ALASKA.

WHEREAS, The Native Village of Kwigillingok (Hereinafter "TRIBE") is a federally recognized Tribe; and

WHEREAS, The TRIBE is continuing to conduct business using its September 20th, 2008 fuel delivery from North Star Gas & Crowley Marine which was purchased at the bulk fuel cost of \$246,521.50 for 55,013 gallons, and which was expected to last the TRIBE throughout the winter until the next fuel delivery September of 2009; and

WHEREAS, The \$1,200 energy rebate provided to Alaska residents in October 2008 by the State in an attempt to assist individuals with high anticipated energy costs this winter did not adequately address the dire economic crisis in Southwest Alaska which were caused by high costs of fuel, a poor commercial fishing season, and early and enduring cold snap, and failed fuel deliveries; and

WHEREAS, The TRIBE has been affected this winter in the same way that the communities in Emmonak and Tuluksak have been affected as reported in this month's recent Anchorage Daily News and Los Angeles Times newspaper articles. These articles describe the immediate struggle facing many of our tribal members-a struggle forcing them to choose between using the little money they have to either feed their families or buy fuel to heat their homes; and

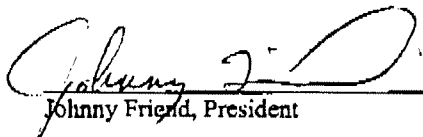
WHEREAS, With the reality and hardship of half a winter still ahead of us, it is imperative that more appropriate energy relief be brought to our remote rural community of Native Village of Kwigillingok.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Native Village of Kwigillingok fully supports Senator Hoffman's call for the State of Alaska to subsidize the difference when an Alaskan has to pay more than \$3 a gallon for residential heating fuel (for up to 600 gallons purchased per residence from the months of September through March).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Native Village of Kwigillingok wholly supports an extension of the Power Cost Equalization Program (PCE) through Senate Bill 88 and supports continued and full funding of the Renewable Energy Fund by the Alaska State Legislature.

CERTIFICATION

We the undersigned, hereby certify that the Tribal Council of the Native Village of Kwigillingok adopted the foregoing Resolution at a duly called, noticed and convened meeting on March 10, 2009, by the affirmative vote of 5 council members, with 0 council members opposed, and 0 abstaining, and that a quorum was present.



Johnny Friend, President



Lillian Kiunya, Secretary

3/10/09

Date

3-10-09

Date

March 12, 2009

House Community & Regional Affairs Committee

Re: Testimony on HB 150

Honorable Co-Chairs and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Native village of Nightmute we want to thank the Alaska Legislature's efforts in addressing the energy needs of all Alaskans, particularly those of our region which has been faced with challenging humanitarian issues stemming from the ever increasing electric and fuel costs. We are sincerely grateful for last year's increase in the ceiling of the PCE program which has been helping our community. The PCE program helps us to maintain the critical circulation of little income and revenue we are able to have in our village. The PCE program is a priority and we respectfully ask for:

Continuation of the PCE program and perpetuation of the eligible costs ceiling at \$1.00.

The AEA estimates the FY2010 cost of retaining the \$1.00 ceiling at \$3.4 million. The bulk of our village income is dedicated to paying for the upkeep of energy, and if the PCE rate drops, our electric costs will go up immediately. We realize that our local utilities will have to collect on those fuel costs in order to recover from 2008. Our families simply cannot afford to pay for this when their energy costs are already taking up to 70% of their disposable income.

We ask respectfully that the legislature provide funding to continue PCE at a cost ceiling of \$1.00 per kilowatt-hour (kWh.) And we are also asking you to consider increasing the household limit from 500kWh per month to the national average of 750kWh per month. Our local economy is fragile and vulnerable and needs consideration in the PCE program. We are asking for a restoration of PCE eligibility to businesses, clinics and other public facilities that were included in the program when it was originally enacted. This is critical to keep down inflation and increase the viability of our local economies in rural Alaska that are struggling or on the brink of failure.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

NATIVE VILLAGE OF Nightmute

Caroline Tuttle

Nunapitchuk Limited

P.O. Box 129 Nunapitchuk Alaska 99641 Phone No 907 527-5717 Fax 527-5229

March 13, 2009.

House Community & Regional Affairs Committee.

Re: Testimony on HB 150.

Honorable Co-Chair and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Nunapitchuk Limited Corporation, we want to thank the Alaska Legislature's efforts in addressing the energy needs of all Alaskans, particularly those of our region which has been faced with challenging humanitarian issues from the ever increasing electric and fuel costs. We are sincerely grateful for last year's increase in the ceiling of the PCE program which has been helping our community. The PCE program helps us to maintain the critical circulation of little income and revenue we are able to have in our village. The PCE program is priority and we respectfully as for:

Continuation of the PCE program and perpetuation of the eligible costs ceiling at \$ 1.00.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Nunapitchuk Limited Corporation.
Vice-Chairman- Jerry Sam Wassillie Sr.

