# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

***Session:***
**State Capitol Building,**
**Room 428**
**Juneau, Alaska 99801-2186**
**Phone (907) 465-3004**
**Fax: (907) 465-2070**
**Toll Free: (877) 465-3004**

***Interim:***
**1292 Sadler Way**
**Fairbanks, Alaska 99701**
**Phone: (907) 452-1088**
**Fax: (907) 452-1146**

## REPRESENTATIVE STEVE THOMPSON
## DISTRICT 10

### Sponsor Statement
### HB 114

### "An Act relating to an opt-out charitable giving program offered by an electric or telephone cooperative"

House Bill 114 gives statutory authority for electric and telephone cooperatives to offer an opt-out charitable giving program to their members, when the program has been approved by a majority of the membership. More than 250 electric cooperatives across the U.S. have implemented similar successful programs.

House Bill 114 allows the cooperative's members the opportunity to participate in a charitable giving program that will round their monthly bill to the next whole dollar amount, not to exceed 99 cents a month.

Under HB 114, the participating cooperative would clearly have to identify on each monthly billing statement the amount voluntarily added to a member's bill, after rounding to the next whole dollar, and provide instruction on how to opt out of the program, should a member so choose.

The monies collected under HB 114 may only be used for charitable donations and members are given the opportunity to claim a full refund of all amounts they paid under the program for at least the three preceding years.

Based on the collective generosity of cooperative members, charitable donations will add up quickly. Funds will then be disbursed back into the community to benefit qualified organizations and help neighbors in need.

E-Mail: Representative.Steve.Thompson@legis.state.ak.us
*Website: www.akrepublicans.org/thompson/*