

# BRISTOL BAY NATIVE ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 310  
DILLINGHAM, ALASKA 99576  
PHONE (907) 842-5257

Tuesday, February 22, 2012

Tribal Councils  
Served by BBNA:

Aleknagik

Chignik Bay

Chignik Lagoon

Chignik Lake

Clarks Point

Curyung

Egegik

Ekuk

Ekwok

Igiugig

Iliamna

Ivanof Bay

Kanatak

King Salmon

Kokhanok

Koliganek

Levelock

Manokotak

Naknek

New Stuyahok

Newhalen

Nondalton

Pedro Bay

Perryville

Pilot Point

Port Heiden

Portage Creek

South Naknek

Togiak

Twin Hills

Ugashik

The Honorable Joe Thomas  
Alaska State Senate  
State Capitol Room 514  
Juneau AK, 99801

**RE: Letter of Support for Senate Bill 203, "Energy Voucher"**

Dear Mr. Thomas,

The Bristol Bay Native Association is writing to express support of Senate Bill 203, the creation of an energy voucher program.

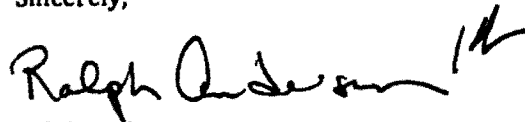
The high and volatile price of energy is a serious issue for families and businesses in the Bristol Bay region, and immediate relief is severely needed. The average price of heating fuel is around \$5.85 per gallon; and the average price of electricity, based on PCE reports, is around .5967 per kWh.

We are very familiar with the importance of energy assistance and the immediate relief it provides to low-income families as the administrator of LIHEAP & AKHAP programs for the region. In general, we recognize the need for assistance for all Alaskans as a necessary short-term solution to any energy plan set forth. We also recognize the importance of energy efficiency and conservation, and alternative energy policies, programs and projects that help offset the need for fossil fuels.

We recognize SB 203 requests the executive branch to evaluate program options for energy assistance beyond the temporary voucher program. To that point, we respectfully recommend that rural entities such as regional non-profits be included in those discussions, analyses and recommendations to the fullest extent possible.

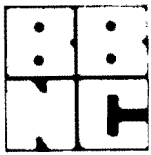
The Bristol Bay Native Association appreciates your concern with the high cost of energy, and supports your efforts in finding solutions to continue to provide relief until a transition to more affordable energy supplies is realized.

Sincerely,



Ralph Andersen  
President & Chief Executive Officer

Cc: Senator Gary Stevens  
Senator Lyman Hoffman  
Representative Bryce Edgmon  
Representative Alan Austerman



# Bristol Bay Native Corporation

*Enriching Our Native Way of Life*

111 West 16th Avenue, Suite 400 / Anchorage, Alaska 99501-5109 / (907) 278-3602 / Fax (907) 276-3924

February 24, 2012

The Honorable Joe Thomas  
Alaska State Senate  
State Capitol Room 514  
Juneau, AK 99801

**RE: Letter of Support for Senate Bill 203**

Dear Senator Thomas,

Bristol Bay Native Corporation strongly supports Senate Bill 203, the creation of an energy voucher program.

The high and unstable price of energy is a serious issue for families and businesses in the Bristol Bay region, and immediate relief is severely needed. The average price of heating fuel is \$5.85 per gallon; the average price of electricity, based on PCE reports is \$0.5967 per kWh.

Energy assistance is very important as it provides immediate relief to low-income families. We recognize the need for assistance for all Alaskans as a necessary short-term solution to any energy plan set forth. We know the importance of energy efficiency and conservation, and alternative energy policies, programs and projects that help offset the need for fossil fuels.

We recognize SB 203 requests the executive branch to evaluate program options for energy assistance beyond the temporary voucher program. To that point, we respectfully recommend that rural entities such as regional corporations and non-profits be included in those discussions, analyses and recommendations to the fullest extent possible.

Bristol Bay Native Corporation appreciates your concern with the high cost of energy, and supports your efforts in finding solutions to continue to provide relief until a transition to more affordable energy supplies is realized.

Sincerely,

Jason Metrokin  
President & CEO

Cc: The Honorable Gary Stevens  
The Honorable Lyman Hoffman  
The Honorable Bryce Edgmon  
The Honorable Alan Austerman



The Association of  
Village Council Presidents  
Regional Housing Authority  
(907) 543-3121 (800) 478-4687

Box 767  
Bethel, AK 99559  
(907) 543-3933(FAX)

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BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGE COUNCIL PRESIDENTS  
REGIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY

RESOLUTION 12-05

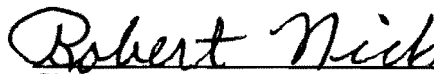
**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING SB 203, THE ALASKA ENERGY RELIEF PLAN**

- WHEREAS;** Rural Alaskans were hit with one of the coldest weather spans in the winter of 2011-2012, causing a major hardship for struggling families (Alaska had an average 5.8°F between November-January, but dropped to the -20s and -30s for up to two weeks at a time); and
- WHEREAS;** The Alaska Senate is proposing to utilize a portion of the State's \$3.7 billion surplus to help Alaska families in coping with high energy prices via Senate Bill 203, and provide Alaskans with immediate energy relief through fuel vouchers and develop a program to help residents deal with high heating costs during the transition to more affordable energy supplies; and
- WHEREAS;** SB 203 would direct the Alaska Dept. of Revenue to send a voucher to every adult Permanent Fund Dividend recipient in the fall of 2012, which can be redeemed at the fuel distributor of their choice for either 250 gallons of heating oil, an equivalent amount of natural gas, or 1,500 KWH of electricity; and
- WHEREAS;** SB 203 calls for the State to evaluate several options for on-going energy relief and recommend by Oct. 1, 2012, the best or most viable program that can be put into effect for 2013 and beyond.

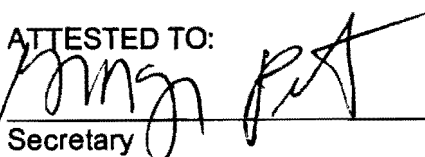
**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** That the AVCP RHA Board of Commissioners hereby supports SB 203, and wholeheartedly encourages the Alaska State Legislature to pass the bill as soon as possible and immediately send it to Gov. Sean Parnell for this signature.

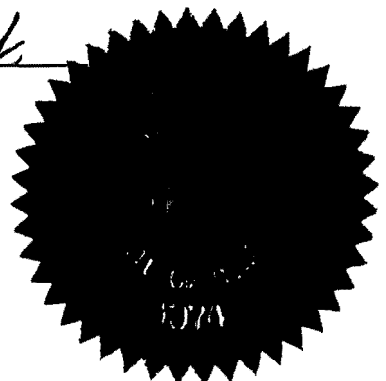
**CERTIFICATION**

The foregoing resolution was passed by the Board of Commissioners of the Association of Village Council Presidents Regional Housing Authority in a duly called meeting where a quorum was present, this 13<sup>rd</sup> day of February, 2012, by a vote of 5 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstaining.

  
Chairman

ATTESTED TO:

  
Secretary



go up at the spring barge delivery.

Qanirtuuq, Inc., Quinhagak, AK.

\$6.75 heating, \$ 6.82 gas, plus 3% sales tax. The supplier was out of stove oil in February, but bought some from the LKSD School and AVEC.

Nunapitchuk Ltd.

\$6.00 heating, \$6.85 gas, plus 4% sales tax.

City of Upper Kalskag.

\$6.50 for both heating and gas.

Iqfiiouaq Co. Inc., Eek, AK.

\$7.00 for both heating and gas, plus 2% sales tax. Stove oil might not last to this coming spring.

Akiachak Fuel Sales, Inc.

\$6.86 heating, \$ 6.90 gas. Plus 5% sales tax.

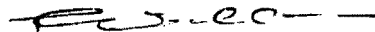
Kokarmiut Corp., Akiak, AK.

\$6.85 heating, \$ 6.80 gas.

In light of the above examples, AVCP Housing is very grateful that you, our representatives in Juneau, are trying to work on a plan to help rural Alaskans deal with their high energy costs. The Sarah Palin-era Energy Dividend was of great assistance when it was enacted and distributed – many rural Alaskans then received a very great benefit. But today, high energy costs are unrelenting and rural residents still need relief in this area, since there is rarely any kind of long-lasting relief for this, even for the wider population of Alaska. The lack of relief is resulting in a low-state of anarchy in a village like Hooper Bay, but since it's involving only wood, criminal matters aren't being brought up.

Therefore, thank you very much for your thoughtfulness in developing SB 203. On behalf of the AVCP RHA Board of Commissioners and staff, I thank you for your continued assistance to the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta region, other rural Alaska areas, and the rest of the state and its people.

Sincerely,



Ron Hoffman  
President/CEO

Cc: Sen. Joe Thomas, Fairbanks  
Sen. Joe Paskan, Fairbanks  
Sen. Tom Wagoner, Kenai  
Sen. Johnny Ellis, Anchorage  
Sen. Donny Olson, Golovin

and electricity. You might have heard on KYUK radio or read in the Anchorage Daily News about some people in Bethel paying up to \$800-plus monthly bills this winter for their heating. In villages around Bethel, people were burning trash, wood from abandoned buildings, and icy green brush from riversides.

Other villages have their own stories:

#### **Kotlik**

In Kotlik, a tribal council worker says nearly all community household are coming to the tribal council and asking for LIHEAP and/or emergency assistance. There are only 150 jobs for the 600 population. Stove oil costs \$6.65 and gas is \$7.25. Therefore, people that get pay checks first buy stove oil and food, and worry about bills later. Even wood gathering is hard to do, due to the cost of gasoline.

#### **Nunam Iqua (Sheldon's Point)**

As in Kotlik, a few jobs are available in Nunam per a tribal council worker, so most people cannot afford to buy heating fuel. Lucky for the village, there is a sandbar near the village where people can get wood to burn if they are able to get it. But elders who have little help are calling upon the tribal council for energy assistance every day, and such assistance is backlogged to November; they are even asking for any CITGO assistance. Nunam is assigned 11 emergency energy vouchers, but those are currently exhausted. People are asking for loans or try to borrow money to buy needed items and heating fuel, or to pay bills. One community member racked up \$800 in electricity using an electric heater and oven when a toy stove broke down for a few days.

#### **Hooper Bay**

In Hooper Bay, the city manager says people in his village are "looking" for anything that will burn, whether cardboard, old shoes, clothing and any scrap of wood that becomes available. He said people are chain-sawing down unused city property buildings at night and taking the lumber home for wood. Still members in town have been coming all winter long to the city asking for any scraps of lumber that may become available. People are stealing wood from each other, the city manager said, and collecting and burning low-quality woods such as cottonwood gotten from the shoreline.

#### **Nunapitchuk**

A head of household from Nunapitchuk said he was getting tired of getting their stove oil stolen from their tank so they set an old bear trap below it. In the middle of one night they finally caught a thief, who howled loudly and made a ruckus when caught. But, by the time they went out to go check the trap, the villain had escaped loose. The head of household said they have less stove oil stolen now.

Examples of stove oil and gas costs in Y-K Delta villages:

#### **Mumtram Pikkai, Inc., Goodnews Bay, AK.**

\$ 5.31 heating, \$ 6.17 gas, plus 3% sales tax. This winter, Goodnews Bay is using up two years' supply of heating fuel. The village is very low on stove oil now, and will have to request for more stove oil from any local available supplies like the school. Price will



**The Association of Village Council Presidents  
Regional Housing Authority**

PO Box 767  
405 Ptarmigan Road  
Bethel, Alaska 99559  
Ph 907-543-3121  
Fax 907-543-2270  
[www.avcphousing.org](http://www.avcphousing.org)

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March 12, 2012

Sen. Lyman Hoffman  
Alaska State Senate  
State Capitol Room 518  
Juneau AK, 99801

Rep. Bob Herron  
State House of Representatives  
State Capitol, Room 411  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

**RE: SB 203 Energy Relief Plan**

Dear Sen. Hoffman and Rep. Herron,

After a short respite from the cold weather, our temperatures have dropped once again to the -20s at nights and our people continue to work at keeping their homes warmed with anything they could afford or find. The cost of trying to keep warm is still outrageous, to say the least.

The AVCP Regional Housing Authority (RHA) is in receipt of a press release and draft bill regarding SB 203. When the AVCP RHA Board of Commissioners met recently, they adopted a resolution, which is attached, supporting SB 203. The Commissioners believe the benefits from SB 203 will be very welcomed by us all in Alaska.

We recommend that SB 203 be amended to provide, if at all possible, the vouchers go to heads of families, and raise the vouchers to 500 gallons or 3,000 KWHs, and include wood vouchers as another option where available.

A cord of wood is about \$500. A cord in the long run supplies more BTUs than an equivalent cost of heating fuel. A cord (2,500 lbs) provides 7,000 BTUs per lb. or 17,500,000 BTUs. One gal. of stove oil has 135,000 BTUs; thus, 17.5 million divided by 135,000, gets about 130 gals worth of heating oil. If fuel oil costs \$6.40 (Bethel price), it costs \$830 to buy that 130 gals versus \$500 for a cord of wood. Immediately, one has a \$330 savings buying wood, or buys more BTUs with that \$830 when using it all on wood.

Rural Alaska, as you know, always suffers the most when it comes to paying for heating

**Catherine Reardon**

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**From:** pat pletnikoff <pat714swet@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 17, 2012 1:12 PM  
**To:** Catherine Reardon  
**Cc:** Patricia Walker  
**Subject:** Energy Relief Plan

Hi: Please let Senator Thomas know we appreciate fully his efforts to help relieve energy costs to Alaskans. The group of Senators are absolutely correct in that relief is necessary. Our families here at St. George often must either heat their homes or cut down on grocery purchases. A hard choice for anyone. But, with the high unemployment situation facing our people, this proposed relief is welcome and justified. We are grateful for the efforts of the Senators. Thank you, Pat Pletnikoff, Mayor, City of St. George

-----Original Message-----

From: [Poms@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Poms@legis.state.ak.us) [mailto:[Poms@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Poms@legis.state.ak.us)]

Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2012 9:20 AM

To: Grier Hopkins

Subject: New Pom:SB 203 Energy Assistance Program & Vouchers

Robert Pope  
344 W Corral Ave

Soldotna 99669,

SB 203 is needed! The people of Alaska, especially in the bush communities, are suffering from high energy costs and need relief NOW, not in the future. If we get a pipeline built we can sunset this bill. Remember, the money you are spending belongs to the people of Alaska.



**From:** D. Robbins [<mailto:drobbins.r@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 4:08 PM  
**To:** Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Joe Thomas  
**Cc:** Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Dennis Egan; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Johnny Ellis  
**Subject:** RE: SB 203 Energy Assistance Program and Vouchers

Co-Chair Hoffman,  
Co-Chair Thomas,  
Committee members,

I hope you will find time to schedule a hearing soon for SB 203 *Energy Assistance Program and Vouchers*.

The bottom line with folks is staying warm and having food on the table. I saw some of my family going through a lot of stress last winter, and me for/with them, due to the costs running up for heating and utility bills. My (adult) kids were fortunate enough to be able to put the delivery costs on a credit card and hopefully pay it off over the summer. It is still a drag on the budgets and another year like the last one is going to really hurt. I live in my daughter's downstairs apartment, and am only indirectly hurt by this, but it is a big concern.

Some seniors and others who do not have as dependable jobs are beginning to have to choose to stay warm or have healthy food or other things like school clothes for their kids who just keep growing.

Please allow a public hearing and let people tell you about their situations. I fear there are many who are struggling and some are simply leaving Fairbanks.

Sincerely,

Doris Robbins

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Doris Robbins

(907) 374-0597  
1281 Overhill Dr.  
Fairbanks AK 99709-6753  
[drobbins.r@gmail.com](mailto:drobbins.r@gmail.com)

**From:** Fred Beans [<mailto:fred.beans@ymail.com>]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 24, 2012 12:22 PM  
**To:** Sen. Donny Olson  
**Cc:** City of Mtn. Vil; [atcadmin@gci.net](mailto:atcadmin@gci.net); Paul Beans  
**Subject:** SB 203

Honorable Senator Donald Olson,

The icy grip of old man winter is loosening and spring is close at hand. No doubt we will see him again.

My name is Frederick Beans, born and raised, for over a half a century, in Mountain Village. In my time, I've seen the decline of jobs, the hey days of Commercial Fishing is at its lowest, and I've also witnessed our People resorting to the handouts of the Government, not only that, but the increase of the price of a barrel of crude oil, of which the State of Alaska gets its revenue from. The price oil is on the rise, in part, due to the unrest in the Middle East, and I don't see it dropping any time in the future, which in turn is raising the cost of living, out here in the Bush. As the Mayor of Mountain Village, I sincerely and wholeheartedly support Senate Bill 203, of which you are a co-sponsor of. I feel the Bill is a stepping stone in relieving some of the hardships we are facing, and will be facing, in the future. I also hope a program, of this nature, will be developed, to aid us in living in this Great State of Alaska.

I will bring this before the City Council, at our next meeting, and, I will push for a resolution in support of SB 203. I will also encourage the other entities to do so. Thank You very much.

Sincerely Yours,

Fred P. Beans,

Mayor of Mountain Village.

City of Mountain Village  
P.O. Box 32085  
Mountain Village, Alaska 99632-0085  
(907) 591-2929 or 2715  
Fax (907) 591-2920

**Resolution No. 12-02**

**A RESOLUTION** of the City of Mountain Village to support Senate Bill 203-The Energy Voucher Bill

**WHEREAS** : the Council of the City of Mountain Village humbly request the Alaska Department of Revenue utilize the \$3.7 billion surplus revenue to provide vouchers to every Adult Permanent Fund Dividend recipient and also develop a program to help residents deal with high heating costs during the transition to more affordable energy supplies.

**WHEREAS** : the City of Mountain Village recognizes and are fully aware of the high cost of living for the residents in Rural Alaska.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT** : The City of Mountain Village respectfully request that the State of Alaska Department of Revenue provide immediate energy relief vouchers based on the local cost of home heating, price of fuel and average temperatures of the communities using the \$3.7 billion dollars of surplus generated from Alaska Permanent Fund Dividend Program.

**CERTIFICATION**

**PASSED AND APPROVED BY A QUORUM OF** City of Mountain Village this 13th day of March 2012, with a vote of 6 in favor, \_\_\_ against, \_\_\_ abstain, and 1 absent.

BY: [Signature]  
Mayor

Attest: [Signature]  
City Clerk

# 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 13, 2012

The Honorable Lyman Hoffman, Co- Chair  
Senate Finance Committee  
Alaska State Capitol, Room 518  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

The Honorable Bert Stedman, Co-Chair  
Senate Finance Committee  
Alaska Capitol, Room 516  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

**Subject: Support for SB 203, Energy Assistance Program & Vouchers**

Dear Chair Hoffman and Chair Stedman:

The Alaska Commission on Aging (ACoA) is pleased to offer our support of SB 203, a bill to establish an energy assistance program that would issue an energy voucher to all Alaskan Permanent Fund Dividend recipients. SB 203 is an interim measure to help Alaskans manage their high utility bills until more affordable energy supplies come on line. SB 203 also requires the Executive Branch to evaluate and make recommendations for a cost efficient and effective energy assistance program to be instituted by FY2014. This legislation is sponsored by Senator Joe Thomas and co-sponsored by Senators Paskvan, Ellis, Olson, Egan, Wagoner, French, Kookesh and you, Senator Hoffman.

The price of heating fuel is expensive but especially hard felt by Alaskans on a fixed income. As the price of heating fuel increases, older Alaskans spend more of their fixed incomes on heating their homes, especially Elders who live in rural and remote communities where energy costs are the highest. During the winter, seniors often spend much of their day at home. Older adults typically experience cooler body temperatures than younger people. Many live in older and sometimes drafty homes that are less energy efficient and poorly insulated. In order to save money, some seniors turn down their thermostats way low and may even resort to closing off rooms during the winter or more dangerous practices such as using their kitchen stoves for heat. They also cut back on food and prescription medication expenditures, measures that can compromise their health and quality of life.

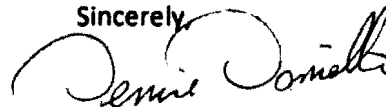
ACoA supports SB 203 and believes that this program will help all Alaskans with their heating bills, especially older Alaskans. Please feel free to contact Denise Daniello, ACoA's executive director, by phone (465-4879) or email ([denise.daniello@alaska.gov](mailto:denise.daniello@alaska.gov)) should you have questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,



Sharon Howerton-Clark  
Chair, Alaska Commission on Aging

Sincerely,



Denise Daniello  
ACoA Executive Director

Cc: Senator Ellis  
Senator McGuire

Senator Egan  
Senator Thomas

Senator Olson