

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

## Session

State Capitol, Rm. 101  
Juneau, AK 99801  
(907) 465-2435  
Fax: (907) 465-6615



## Session

State Capitol, Rm. 125  
Juneau, AK 99801  
(907) 465-29965  
Fax: (907) 465-6592

Senator\_Bill\_Wielechowski@legis.state.ak.us

Senator\_Lesil\_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us

SENATOR BILL WIELECHOWSKI  
SENATOR LESIL MCGUIRE

## Sponsor Statement: SB 32

### Capitalizing the Alternative Energy Revolving Loan Fund

As oil prices skyrocket, many Alaskan small businesses are struggling with crippling energy costs. Senate Bill 32 would help these businesses by capitalizing the Alternative Energy Conservation Revolving Loan Fund with \$10 million to enable Alaskan-owned businesses to reduce their energy costs and become more competitive.

Last year, the legislature unanimously passed S.B. 220, which expanded the purpose of the Fund within the Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development. The bill authorized the Department to make low-interest loans to help Alaskan businesses "purchase, construct and install energy conservation improvements in commercial buildings." The interest rate was set at the prime rate plus 1 percent and a list of eligible uses was defined, including the purchase of insulation, thermal windows, energy meters and high-efficiency furnaces. Unfortunately, this bill passed on the final day of the session and no action was taken to capitalize the fund.

While ongoing programs exist to help residential property owners, including Weatherization and Home Energy Rebates, little assistance is available to Alaskan businesses. Capitalizing this Fund through S.B. 32 would help small business owners finance energy improvements shown to save money over the long run. It would also help fulfill the goals of the state's new energy policy to "achieve a 15 percent increase in energy efficiency on a per capita basis between 2010 and 2020."

Please join us in supporting this important legislation.