

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

House District 6  
Co-Chair House Resources Committee  
Transportation Committee  
Fisheries Committee  
Joint Armed Services Committee



State Capitol Room 126  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182  
(907) 465-4859  
Fax (907) 465-3799  
1-888-465-4859

## REPRESENTATIVE ERIC A. FEIGE

### HB 207 Sponsor Statement

***"An Act establishing the Board of Agriculture, Conservation, and Development; transferring the powers and duties of the Natural Resource Conservation and Development Board to the Board of Agriculture, Conservation, and Development; transferring to the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development the authority to approve loans from the agricultural revolving loan fund; terminating the Natural Resource Conservation and Development Board; and providing for an effective date."***

It is not often that we have an opportunity to reduce the size of state government and improve efficiency. Two boards currently housed within the Department of Natural Resources, the Board of Agriculture and Conservation and the Natural Resources Conservation Board, work independently of each other, but impact a similar group of people – agricultural producers and land users.

The Board of Agriculture and Conservation (BAC) approves loans and oversees the Agriculture Revolving Loan Fund (ARLF), which has provided significant funding assistance to agricultural producers in Alaska. In addition, the board makes recommendations concerning agricultural land sales.

The Natural Resources Conservation Development Board (NRCDB) works in an advisory capacity to the local soil and water conservation districts, which work closely with agricultural producers. The board serves as the board of supervisors for the Alaska District. It also makes recommendations on soil resources, conservation practices, and effective and orderly development of agricultural, forest, and grazing land in the state.

Under HB207, a new board will be created to assume most of the purposes of the NRCDB and the BAC. The new board's function will also be expanded to add more advisory capacity to the board for agricultural, food, and land uses in Alaska. To help eliminate conflicts between board members and loan processing, approval for ARLF loans will be moved to the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development.

In addition to continuing to set the policies for the Agricultural Revolving Loan Fund, the new board will advise the Commissioners of Natural Resources, Environmental Conservation, and Fish and Game on policy relating to agriculture, land use, resource conservation, food safety and security, pesticides, noxious and invasive plants, animals and pests, and animal care.