LEGISLATIVE REQUEST: AHFC requests legislative support for establishing AHFC as the agency for approving Home Energy Rating Systems (HERS) utilized in the state of Alaska (SOA).

STATEMENT OF NEED:

- Non-governmental third parties are working toward identifying themselves in federal legislation as the official HERS verifying agency. If federally enacted, these Outside entities would control HERS state policy and compete for federal funds available to Alaska and other states.
- If AHFC is established as the authorizing agency, it will ensure that Alaska's varied and extreme weather conditions are appropriately addressed prior to any HERS approval and implementation. HERS testing will be required.
- Based on the investment that the SOA has made through AHFC in developing its own highly successful HERS, *AkWarm*, AHFC requests SOA identify AHFC in statute as the official HERS approving agency in Alaska.

BACKGROUND:

- HERS *AkWarm* software has been independently tested and approved by the U.S. Department of Energy. It has been in use and continually updated by AHFC since 1996.
- AHFC has considerable experience in the development, implementation and certification of HERS.

- AHFC is the only state agency actively involved in the development of its own HERS. *AkWarm* is specifically designed for Alaska conditions. It is well recognized by the building, real estate and home-loan industries and directly tied to the following AHFC programs:

  - ✓ Alaska Building Energy Efficiency Standard (BEES): AHFC home loans are required by A.S. 46.11.040 to meet BEES. These loans are verified by *AkWarm*.

  - ✓ Home Energy Rebate Program and Weatherization programs: These show an average projected energy reduction of 30 percent and require *AkWarm*.

  - ✓ The Energy-Efficiency Interest-Rate Reduction loan program. This program incentivizes the construction and purchase of homes exceeding minimum energy standards and requires *AkWarm*.

CONTACT:
Stacy Schubert, 301-4556, sschubert@ahfc.us   Cary Bolling: 350-2479, cbolling@ahfc.us