

Konrad Jackson

From: Bill Kunerth <bkunerth@newsminer.com>
Sent: Friday, March 15, 2013 4:31 PM
To: House Labor and Commerce
Subject: Support of HB74

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Dear Legislators:

As publisher of the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner, I am voicing my support of House Bill 74. Our newspaper has written numerous articles on this subject and we have endorsed the gas trucking plan in our editorials.

We've done so because the high energy prices are crippling the economy in Fairbanks and the Interior. From an anecdotal standpoint, we have heard people state that their heating bills can be as much as their mortgage. With the gas trucking plan, cost estimates have projected that heating prices could be cut in half for local residents.

But this plan isn't just for Fairbanks, because a propane by-product could also be supplied to villages in the Interior, who are suffering even more than we are.

The gas trucking plan is needed now, but it also puts into place an expansion of a gas infrastructure for when a pipeline is built in the future.

Thank you for listening to our concerns and understanding how vital this issue is to Fairbanks, to the Interior and to the entire state of Alaska.

Sincerely,

Bill Kunerth

Bill Kunerth

Publisher

Fairbanks Daily News-Miner

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Konrad Jackson

From: Sharon Gherman <sharon@fundingexchange.org>
Sent: Saturday, March 16, 2013 6:04 AM
To: Rep. Kurt Olson
Cc: Sen. John Coghill; Rep. Tammie Wilson
Subject: Trucking Gas to Fairbanks

Rep. Olson, my husband and I were unable to attend the committee hearing on trucking gas to the Interior, but we feel it's important to weigh in on the bill nevertheless.

We are within 6 or 7 years of retirement – both from state government service (he a teacher and school administrator, me as an administrator). We have lived in Fairbanks for most of our twenty years here, and we would like to retire here. But as we began to compare the costs of living in Fairbanks after retirement to that of other Alaska communities, we were shocked. We are concerned that it will not be possible to stay in the Interior unless something dramatic happens soon to bring down the cost of utilities.

I have two examples for you that quantify our concerns:

1. We recently added up our heating oil and electricity costs for the last year in our Fairbanks home. For a 2500 sq. ft., 4-star-plus home, we paid an average of \$600/month for heating oil and \$230/month for electricity – and that's with **no fuel purchased at all** between May 1 and September 1. **An average of \$830 a month!**
2. In projecting our after-retirement costs for a home of the same size in Fairbanks and Sterling, we were shocked to find that between utilities and property taxes, we would have at least **\$1,000 a month more disposable income** in Sterling. (Sterling offers a \$300,000 property tax exemption for seniors instead of the \$150,000 in Fairbanks, and Sterling's fuel source is natural gas.) A \$12,000 a year difference is hard to ignore.

Please do everything you can to bring gas (and other lower cost fuel technology) to Fairbanks as soon as possible.

Thanks for giving your attention to this matter,

Sharon C. Gherman

Sharon C. Gherman, President/CEO

Funding Exchange, Inc.

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The Art of Grantwriting: Communicating Your Vision to Funders by Sharon Gherman is now available for purchase in print and e-book formats on Booktrope.com, Amazon.com, and Barnesandnoble.com. Check it out!

Konrad Jackson

From: Sterling & Kaari Bouma <sbouma@ideafamilies.org>
Sent: Saturday, March 16, 2013 12:02 AM
To: Konrad Jackson
Cc: Repl.Pete.Higgins@akleg.gov
Subject: support HB 74

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Dear Sir,

We support the LNG project and gas distribution system in House Bill 74.

Alaska needs to develop resources and not solely depend on tourism and oil. We have so many more resources and opportunities.

Sincerely,

Sterling and Kaari Bouma
Fairbanks, Alaska

Kathryn Dodge
665 8th Avenue
Fairbanks AK 99701

March 13, 2013

Dear House Labor and Commerce Committee members,

I am writing in support of HB 74. Fairbanks and the interior are withering on the vine due to high-energy prices and need HB 74 to help us reduce our energy costs and address our air quality. The Fairbanks North Star Borough needs to resolve both of these issues to survive, and our interior neighbors also need the relief from high-energy costs that this project will provide.

This bill helps not just Fairbanks area residents, it helps Alaskan industries like Flint Hills, Pogo Mine become more competitive and our state become attractive to future industrial endeavors.

This bill will also allow Fairbanks to move forward with investing in a buildout of the natural gas distribution network, something that is necessary for any pipeline that might come in the future.

Finally, I want to close by noting that most of this money will come to Fairbanks in the form of loans that we will repay, not grants. It will return a small monetary and large economic dividend to the state. The returned principal/interest dollars will then be available for reinvestment in other projects and communities.

Thank you for your support of this important legislation.

Kathryn Dodge

Fairbanks North Star Borough Assembly