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Leadership to enhance, foster and promote economic development

February 2, 2017
Senator Shelley Hughes
State Capitol Room 125
Juneau AK, 99801

Dear Senator Hughes,

We are writing in support of SB6 commercialization of Industrial Hemp, (IH). Jack Bennett, the leader of Arctic Green Response Technologies, is building a model home using IH insulation material to present to rural Alaska as a solution to affordable housing and solving the rising cost of energy living in the rural villages of Alaska.

55% of the world energy consumption is construction waste related. IH as a construction material with a zero footprint. The high insulation value lowers heating costs up to 70%, annually. Lime-based hemp insulation replaces drywall, OSB plywood, house wrap, and fiberglass insulation that releases flame-retardants impacting both people and planet. The lifecycle of these homes is over a hundred years, and are fire, mildew, moisture, and termite resistant Jack will work to educate communities on how to build with this material.

After studying the problems in rural Alaska, Jack has presented IH as a solution to affordable housing to 200 tribes represented at the Alaska Rural Energy Conference. He has also presented to venues such as, Prince William Sound Citizens Advisory in Cordova and the Regional Response Team in Nome discussing the green response technology used in oil spills and bioremediation. These plant fiber technologies replace polypropylene products and chemical dispersants used in oil spills. Hemp plastics are also 100% biodegradable. He was also able to present IH agriculture as an alterative cash crop to Governor Walker who invited him to meet with his senior advisor about specific business models for AK. US Senator Lisa Murkowski worked with Jack to set up the first workshop with the Oil Response Teams that was held at Kenai Economic Development District in Kenai.

Jack will work with the Alaska farmer to collect the material, enabling jobs in Alaska. IH is a 600 million dollar industry, and will be an estimated 1 billion by 2020. Last year was America's first commercial hemp harvest along with the 30 states that passed their own rules and regulations, eliminating importing costs by 30%-40 We support the passage of SB6 commercialization of Industrial Hemp for the future of Alaska. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Tim Dillon
Executive Director
Kenai Peninsula Economic Development Dist.