



Denali Commission
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February 9, 2015

To: Members of the Alaska Legislature

Re: House Bill 58 – Eligibility for Alaska Energy Efficiency Loans

This letter is provided to support the expansion of the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation (AHFC) energy efficiency loan program to Tribal groups and non-profits – specifically 501c(3), (4), (6), (12) and (19) organizations. The following is offered.

1. The Denali Commission is working on a number of fronts to address the high cost of energy (both heating and electricity) in rural Alaska. One effort we are exploring, and have made some modest investments with program partners, is a community-scale approach to bundling energy audit, energy efficiency improvements and post construction monitoring contracts. We believe that bundling of contracts will lower audit and construction costs for all building owners.
2. Equally important is that the high cost of travel to rural Alaska is a potential barrier for carrying out post construction monitoring of the energy efficiency improvements. Post construction monitoring is an invaluable component of energy efficiency improvements as this provides an opportunity to “reset” any energy efficiency improvements that are not performing as expected. If more rural Alaska building owners have carried out energy efficiency improvements, then the cost of the post construction monitoring is shared amongst the building owners and the cost may then become less cost prohibitive.
3. It is my opinion that a community by community approach to lowering the energy usage of all non-residential buildings will be a significant step in making our rural communities more resilient. House Bill 58 will make it easier for communities to carry out community-scale energy efficiency improvements.
4. When the Commission has more data from our initial investments on community-scale energy improvements for non-residential buildings, I will be happy to share the results with the State Legislature.

I can be reached at 907-271-1440 should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Joel Neimeyer".

Joel Neimeyer
Federal Co-Chair

cc: Scott Waterman, AHFC



DIOCESE OF JUNEAU, ALASKA

February 9, 2015

Dear Members of the Alaska State Legislature:

I urge passage of House Bill 58.

I am Larry Bussone, Business Manager/Finance Officer for the Catholic Diocese of Juneau and also Interim Executive Director of Catholic Community Service (CCS). I can attest that both the Diocese (and its parishes) and CCS would benefit from passage of the legislation. Both have significant needs for efficiency improvements in their facilities. And both would benefit from a low interest loan from the Alaska Energy Efficiency Revolving Loan Fund. Finally, a large number of people throughout Southeast Alaska would benefit from the efficiency upgrades.

Thank you for consideration of my request.

Sincerely,

Larry J. Bussone
Business Manager, Diocese of Juneau
Interim Executive Director, Catholic Community Service



January 27, 2017

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing in support of HB 81's expansion to include non-profits. The Sitka Fine Arts Camp would benefit from this greatly. Our organization owns 20 buildings of the former Sheldon Jackson School. Many of these buildings have the same energy standards that they were built with 100 years ago.

Operating the historic buildings is extremely costly however with basic energy improvements the buildings can be modernized to be used efficiently for another 100 years of service to our community and state.

Sincerely,
Roger Schmidt



Members of the Alaska State Legislature
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: Support for HB 58 – More Energy Efficient Buildings Act

To Whom It May Concern:

Tanana Chiefs Conference, a non-profit, Tribal consortium representing 42 federally recognized tribes in Alaska's interior would like to express its strong support for the HB 58, The "More Energy Efficient Buildings Act." Tanana Chiefs Conference Strongly believes that the changes as proposed within HB 58 will have significant benefit to our organization, our member tribes and our region as a whole.

For decades rural Alaskan communities have been burdened by some of the highest energy costs in the nation combined with some of the least efficient infrastructure. The highest electric rates in the interior are currently \$1.02/kWh in the community of Takotna and nearly \$10/gal for fuel oil in Arctic Village. These represent energy costs that are anywhere from 5-10 times higher than average heat and electric bills paid by residents in Anchorage. The city of Fairbanks, TCC's base of operations for more than 600 employees and a combined 200,000 sq ft of office and clinic space, has consistently been ranked in the top 5 cities in the nation for highest cost of utility bills. With improved access to funding from the Alaska Energy Efficiency Revolving Loan Fund, TCC, tribal councils and other non-profits will be able to save money on utility bills and put that money toward providing better services to their clients – Alaskan Residents.

Tanana Chiefs Conference has taken an active role in assisting our communities with energy efficiency projects and we look forward to continuing that effort through bills like HB 58 that make this process easier. We full support the goals of HB-58, to expand the list of eligible applicants able to take part in the Alaska Energy Efficiency Revolving Loan Fund. We believe this bill will benefit our tribes, our organization and non-profits across Alaska.

Sincerely,

Willard Mayo
Executive Director of Tribal Government and Client Services
Tanana Chiefs Conference
122 1st Ave Suite 600
Office: (907) 452-8251