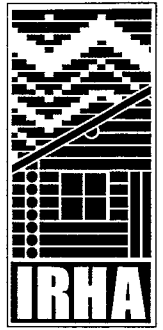


INTERIOR REGIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY



January 5, 2011

Rep. Bryce Edgmon
Alaska State Capitol, Room 416
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Rep. Edgmon:

RE: Proposed Revisions to Sec. 18.56.810 Senior Citizens Housing Development.

I am writing on behalf of the Interior Regional Housing Authority, one of 14 state chartered regional housing authorities who are members of the Association of Alaska Housing Authorities (AAHA). We offer our support for a proposed statutory amendment which would provide for the direct eligibility of Alaska housing authorities under the AHFC Senior Citizens Housing Development Program.

The program among others was created to provide funding to assist organizations attempting to develop senior citizen housing. The acquisition, rehabilitation, accessibility modification and new construction of senior housing as well as pre-development activities are all eligible for grant awards. What should be a relatively straightforward process is complicated by the fact that, regional housing authorities are hampered by a technicality. The need for senior housing is a need that we hear about on a continual basis.

Although Alaska's regional housing authorities are some of the most experienced and qualified housing developers in the state, current statutory language limits program eligibility to municipalities or public or private nonprofit corporations designated as tax exempt under 26 U.S.C. 501(c)(3) and (4) (Internal Revenue Code of 1954). Regional housing authorities do not meet this technical definition and are thus unable to directly access this particular program as a resource to address increasing senior housing needs throughout the state without having to jump through a lot of hoops.. The Interior Regional Housing Authority strongly supports the proposal by AAHA to add regional housing authorities, as defined under AS 18.55.996, to the specified eligible entities which can apply for and receive these funds.

It is our understanding that your office has agreed to sponsor legislation which would provide for the requested statutory change. We very much appreciate your efforts to assist in this matter. If there is anything further we can do to help in your efforts, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Irene Catalone", is written over a horizontal line.

Irene Catalone
CEO

Cc: Heather Arnett, AAHA Statewide Administrator