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March 31, 2009

House Energy Committee
State Capitol Building
Juneau, Alaska 99811

RE: HB 196 – Alternative Energy Revolving Loan Fund

Dear Representative Millett and Edgmon,

The Alaska Municipal League would like to offer support for HB 196. This bill would serve as another tool to those communities who are continuing to face high fuel costs.

We feel it is an excellent idea to eliminate the "sweep" provision. This certainly shows a commitment by the State Legislature to not only continue the fund, but to realize financial growth.

We also are very much in favor of expanding the list of systems permitted for loans under this program, to include wood pellet stoves.

Energy has been one of the major issues keeping municipalities from thriving. Cost, distance, quantity of scale, etc. are hurdles that hamper communities from providing affordable, consistent, reliable energy its residents. Every tool that we can find should be left as an option.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this bill. We urge passage.

Sincerely,

Kathie Wasserman
Executive Director