

City Of Akiak
P.O. Box 52028
Akiak, Alaska 99552
Ph. 765-7411-Fax 765-7414

Representative Bob Harron
Alaska State Capitol, Room 415
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Representative Cathy Munoz
Alaska State Capitol, Room 409
Juneau, Alaska 99801

House Community And Regional Affairs Committee

Re: Testimony on HB 150

Honorable Co-Chairs and Members of the Committee

On behalf of the City of Akiak we want to extend our thank you to the Alaska Legislature's efforts in addressing the energy needs of all Alaskans, particularly those of us in our region who are facing challenging humanitarian issues stemming from the ever increasing fuel and electricity costs. We are very grateful for last year's increase in the ceiling of the PCE program which has been helping our village.

As mentioned in our Fall 2008 request for assistance, some of our head of household customers in our village have to make a choice of having heat in the house or food on the table and as you understand a home without heat and light is no place to live in. The PCE program helps our customers who pay for heating and electrical costs maintain the circulation of the little income and revenue we are able to have in our village. The PCE program is a priority and we respectfully ask for: **CONTINUATION OF THE PCE PROGRAM AND PERPETUATION OF THE ELIGIBLE COSTS CEILING AT \$1.00.**

The bulk of our village income is dedicated to paying for the upkeep of heating and electrical needs, and if PCE rate drops, our electric and heating costs will go up, at present our community members with no other choice have to pay for \$.63 cents a kilowatt hour rate and \$6.45 for heating fuel, and even the cost of oil is dropping the fuel our vendors paid for does not change and we pay at the same rate to make sure our vendors will be able to purchase more fuel for the up coming year.

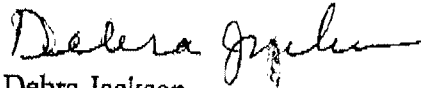
We ask respectfully that the legislature provide funding to continue the PCE program at a cost ceiling of \$1.00 per kilowatt-hour (KWh.) and we also ask you to consider increasing the household limit from 500kWh per month to the national average of 750kWh per month. We also ask for a restoration of the PCE eligibility to businesses, clinics, and other critical public facilities that were included in the program when it was originally enacted.

This is critical to keep down the inflation and increase the viability of our local economies in rural Alaska that are struggling or even on the verge of failing.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

For the City of Akiak

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Debra Jackson".

Debra Jackson

Mayor

Letter from Atmautluak

From: David Nicholai [atmautluaktc@hughes.net]
Sent: Friday, February 27, 2009 12:34 PM
To: Allen Joseph
Subject: High Energy Cost and Representative Bob Herron on Rural Energy issues

Dear Mr. Joseph,

The Atmautluak Traditional Council requests that the information regarding the stories about Atmautluak be presented in Robert Nick's testimony before the special committee of the State House of Representatives who will be holding a hearing on rural energy issues in Bethel on Saturday, February 28.

The homes in Atmautluak are mainly heated with Toyo or Laser Stoves, furnaces and other burning stoves. A couple of homes use wood stoves but most of the houses are starting to use the wood stoves because of the high prices of fuel oil.

A lot of homes are poorly constructed which are thoroughly insulated enough to block out the cold winds, snow and rain. Most are forced to buy more stove oil than others. Most of the residents paid over \$1,200 in a month to heat their home during the month of December 2009 alone.

Many rural residents in Alaska are facing hardships due to the rising cost of energy, Atmautluak is also in the hardship situation as follows:

1. The price of fuel has forced families to make the choice between paying for bills, food, and fuel oil. Some families chose to buy stove oil over food so their family can stay warm during nights when they sleep.
2. The high cost of fuel in Atmautluak has caused some residents to steal from nearby households/homes. This has happened many times in the past, people stealing stove-oil from others.
3. Estimated percentage of individuals that recieved Emercency Fuel Assistance for the residents of Atmautluak is 90% from AVCP, but the funding already has been exhausted for the Village of Atmautluak due to most of the residents applying for the assistance. There are more that applied this year (2009) than last year (2008), also most of the residents are applying for Energy Assistance from AVCP.
4. About 30% of the population for the Village of Atmautluak work for a living and despite the policies that they have, most of the employees are being granted advanced pay just to heat their homes.
5. The Native Village of Atmautluak is also in a hardship for keeping up with their electricity. The residents are charged .69 cent a KWH and the whole village is generated thru a 180 KW and a 150 KW generators. Right know the village is using the 150 because the other one needs some parts to be fixed.

6. The Atmautluak Traditional Council had to make/borrow loans for fuel and maintenance just to keep the generators running. And is trying to cover the costs by fundraising thru gaming activities. The residents pay about \$500.00 a month just to have the fuel burning furnaces running.

With high energy costs, and no Chinook salmon commercial fishing last summer, the Atmautluak Tribe and local organizations have been trying to come up with ideas to help the people Atmautluak.

Sincerely,

Moses A. Pavilla Sr.
Atmautluak Traditional Council

Bryce Edgemad
Charrise Millett

150 - sunset go
away

HB 153
open meetings

KOKARMIUT CORPORATION

PO BOX 52147

AKIAK, ALASKA 99552

PH: (907) 765-7228 FAX: (907) 765-7619

March 11, 2009

Senator Bob Harron
Alaska State Capitol, Room 415
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Re: HB 150

Honorable Chairs and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Community of Akiak we want to thank the Alaska Legislature's Efforts in addressing the energy needs of all Alaskans, particularly those of our Region which has been faced with challenging humanitarian issues stemming from The ever increasing electric and fuel costs. We are sincerely grateful for last years Increase in the ceiling of the PCE program which has been helping our community The PCE program helps us to maintain the critical circulation of little income and Revenue we are able to have in our village. The PCE program is a priority and we Respectfully ask for, "continuation of the PCE program and perpetuation of the Eligible costs ceiling at \$1.00".

The AEA estimates the FY2010 cost of retaining the \$1.00 ceiling at \$3.4 million. The bulk of our village income is dedicated to paying for the upkeep of energy, and If the PCE rate drops, our electric costs will go up immediately. We realize that Our local utilities will have to collect on those fuel costs in order to recover from 2008. Our families simply cannot afford to pay for this when their energy costs Are already taking up to 70% of their disposable income.

We ask respectfully that the legislature provide funding to continue PCE at a Cost ceiling of \$1.00 per kilowatt-hour (kWh). We are also asking you to Consider increasing the household limit form 500kWh per month to the National average of 750kWh per month. Our local economy is fragile and Vulnerable and needs consideration in the PCE program. We are asking for A restoration of PCE eligibility to businesses, clinics and other public Facilities that were included in the program when it was originally enacted. This is critical to keep down inflation and increase the viability of our local Economies in rural Alaska that are struggling or on the brink of failure.

KOKARMIUT CORPORATION

PO BOX 52147

AKIAK, ALASKA 99552

PH: (907) 765-7228 FAX: (907) 765-7619

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,



David Gilila Sr

Gen. Manager

VILLAGE OF KOTLIK
P.O BOX 20210
KOTLIK, ALASKA 99620
(907)899-4326 / 4836 FAX (907)899-4790

27 February, 2009

Allen Joseph
Grants Coordinator
AVCP Regional Housing Authority
P.O Box 767
Bethel, Alaska 99559

RE: Representative Bob Herron Hearing on Rural Energy issues

Dear Mr. Joseph,

The Kotlik Tribal Council requests that the information regarding the stories about Kotlik be presented in Robert Nick's testimony before the special committee of the State House of Representatives who will be holding a hearing on rural energy issues in Bethel on Saturday, February 28.

The homes in Kotlik are mainly heated with Toyo or Laser stoves, furnaces and other oil burning stoves. Very few homes have wood-stoves.

A lot of homes are poorly constructed which are not insulated enough to block out the cold winds. Therefore, they are "forced" to buy more stove oil than others. There are some who paid over \$1,200.00 in one month to heat their home during the month of December 2008 alone.

As many rural villages in Alaska, Kotlik residents and organizations are facing hardship due to the rising cost of energy.

- Freeze up came early the fall of 2008. Beginning October 2008, we have heard of people "missing" stove-oil from their 55 gallon tanks that are connected to their heating system. The high cost of fuel in Kotlik has caused people to "steal" fuel from others, just because they have no other means of purchasing fuel to heat their homes. This has happened many times (in the past) prior to Oct 08, people "stealing" stove-oil from others.
- Some people trade wood and/or borrow money from others for stove oil.
- The Kotlik Yupik Corporation has allowed some people to charge stove oil although they have exceeded their credit limit.
- The price of fuel has forced families to make the choice between paying for bills, food or fuel. Some families chose to buy stove oil over food so the family can sleep in a warm house. The school children were told they can eat breakfast and lunch at the school.
- Between November 20, 2008 and January 26, 2009, thirty eight (38) Kotlik residents were granted the Emergency Fuel Assistance through the Association of Village Council Presidents (AVCP). The emergency funding for Kotlik was used up on January 26, 2009.

- In February 2009, the Kotlik Tribal Council donated a total of 77 gallons of stove oil to families who had no other means of purchasing it themselves. Some people have been ashamed to ask for help whether from AVCP or the tribe, because they never had to in the past.
- More people have applied for the AVCP Energy Assistance than the previous years – hoping to get approved to lower their over-charged credit with the Kotlik Yupik Corporation and/or receive help with fuel.
- For heat, some people are using their electric cook range, portable hot plates and heaters. This has created their electric bills to be \$1,000.00 in one month.
- Despite employer's policy, some employees have been granted early pay advance to purchase fuel.

With high energy costs, and no Chinook salmon commercial fishing this summer, the Kotlik Tribe and local organizations have been trying to come up with ideas to help the people of Kotlik. There is a plan for bingo organizations to have special bingo nights and donate those net proceeds to those who are in need.

Sincerely,

Joseph P. Mike
Tribal President

Testimony to:

**Alaska State House of Representatives
Community & Regional Affairs Committee
on H.B. 150**

**By Robert Nick
Nunapitchuk, AK**

Introduction

Good morning, my name is Robert Nick, from Nunapitchuk.

Please allow me to express my thanks to co-chairs Rep. Bob Herron of Bethel and Rep. Cathy Munoz of Auke Bay for this opportunity to come before this committee and talk about rural Alaska energy issues, an area which today is dramatically affecting us and our State in many ways.

Energy Costs in Rural Alaska

As you might have heard, gas prices in bush Alaska are between \$6 to \$8 a gallon, while heating oil equals or costs a little more than gas. In Anchorage, the average electric bill is about \$80 to \$100 for electricity (around 7 to 8 cents per kWh, plus a few fees) for a 2,000 sq. ft. home in winter, using around 1,000 kilowatt hours (a month). In Bethel, residents with a 1,000 sq. ft. home pay around \$150 to \$200 for electricity (about 600 kilowatt hours a month) with the help of PCE, with other high fees (surcharges); without it, this cost would have been \$300 to \$400 month.

This year, we have faced some of the coldest weather, especially in December. People living in bush Alaska villages in some homes, we are told, were trying to keep warm using electric stoves, radiant heaters, or other electric burners. And this has had a dramatic effect on the rise of electricity in relation to the cold weather. And the very cold temperatures this winter have increased heating fuel use also, especially in poorly built homes. And almost all families have fuel-burning furnaces requiring electricity to run. In Kotlik, some families paid \$1,000 for electricity in one month. December heating bills were high, with some families in Kotlik and Atmautluak paying \$1,200 a month for heating. Some paid less – around \$700. Those who only paid \$500 or less were “lucky.”

You’ve now heard it said that bush village residents are now choosing fuel over food so their children could sleep in a warm house. As for food, children are told by their parents to eat breakfast and/or lunch at school. And the parents, they say “they make do” with whatever they can. Many homes have empty cupboards and refrigerators, getting by on 100 percent subsistence foods, which in late winter gets harder to get.

Few Jobs in Rural Alaska

Many Alaska village residents that really need help during this energy crisis don't have much money due to little or few jobs or have low-paying jobs because of the depressed local economies of rural communities. To make things worse, grocery or store items are now very, very expensive - first of all, because of high freight costs due to the recent high energy prices and then the high cost of running stores due to high energy costs which is passed down to consumers. And this high cost of consumable foods will be further increased by the proposed By-Pass Mail rate increases in two months (May 11, 2009) by 30 to 40 percent.

Many village residents have limited income and where I come from, the Bethel Census and Wade-Hampton Districts, have high unemployment and poverty rates. The Bethel Census unemployment rate is 16.6%, while the Wade-Hampton unemployment rate is 22.8% (State of Alaska, Jan. 2009). The Bethel Census poverty rate is 20.7% or a fifth of the people out of the 17,147 population, while in Wade Hampton, the poverty rate is 26% or a *quarter* of the population of 7,580 (U.S. Census). (In comparison, the Anchorage poverty rate is around 8 to 10% and unemployment is around 6.8%.)

Conclusion

I am very thankful for last year's increase in the ceiling of the PCE program which has been very helpful to our rural community households this winter. We are asking the Alaska State Legislature to continue fully funding PCE at a cost ceiling of \$1.00 per kilowatt-hour (kWh), as per SB 4002, and making this permanent, since that would provide continuing assistance to rural Alaskans in paying for the very expensive electricity found in Bush Alaska.

I am also respectfully asking the Legislature to consider increasing the household limit from 500 kWh per month to the national average of 750kWh per month. Our regional economy is fragile and vulnerable and needs further consideration in the PCE program. Finally, I am asking for a restoration of PCE eligibility to businesses, clinics and other public facilities that were included in the program when it was originally enacted. Without PCE, schools are struggling with high energy and electrical costs, and the cost of maintaining their utilities is taking away from teachers and classroom budgets, compromising the quality of education in those schools.

Thank you very much for listening to me and hearing me out. I don't speak only for myself, but for many of the residents in the Y-K Delta who are facing many hardships this winter because of high energy costs. As part of my testimony, I add some letters that other villages sent (sent by email) and wanted me to include with my other testimony for another energy related bill. Please make time to read them.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to comment.

**Letter from
Mark Leary, Tribal Administrator
Napaimute**

2/27/09

I wrote this 4 years ago when fuel prices were closer to half of what they are this winter.

Imagine her situation today at our current energy prices:

3/5/05

Yesterday my family and I went to Tuluksak to watch the regional basketball tournament in their nice new school. During a break in the games we went around town visiting.

We stopped to see one of the elders (age 79). She was sitting there in her dimly-lit HUD house, but it quickly brightened up as she smiled and hugged us – so glad to have visitors.

As we sat there visiting, she mentioned that she was worried that her power was going to turn off and pointed to a little box on the wall. She said that it had been beeping earlier. I asked her what was that little box?

She began to explain:

Her monthly power bill used to be \$300 - \$400 every month – just for a regular house, nothing fancy in it. 2 bedrooms I think. There was no way she could afford to pay that high of electricity bills. This was the case with most of the village and people fell farther and farther behind in paying their power bills. So the power company came in and installed these little boxes in the houses. A person goes over to the IRA/TC office and puts money down to buy power. They get a card, something like a phone card, debit card, etc. which they slide through the little box on the wall in their house to get the amount of power they are able to pay for. When the amount of power they purchased, begins running low, the little box on the wall begins beeping and they have to go buy some more – if they can.

She said she put down \$40 on February 14 – 22 days ago and now was running low on power.

\$40 spent on power over 22 days doesn't sound too bad but it seems to come at a price. She talked about how under this system she is worried about her power all the time and tries to be very conservative – this includes living in a dimly lit house much of the time.

She is alone in there a lot and gets depressed and grouchy. Living in dim light must contribute to that – those older HUD houses are dark to begin with – dark paneled walls, bum windows, and even oriented the wrong way to the sun in some villages.

But she brightened up talking about getting out once in awhile and being able to still get a few pikes and ptarmigans to dry.

She offered to make coffee, but I was thinking those coffee makers use something like 900 watts, so told her no – we already had coffee at another house before. I didn't want her to run out of power.

I guess it's good to be conservative in our power consumption, but does this mean our elders have to live in the dark so that they can afford to have a little bit of power?

I woke up this morning wondering if her power was still on.

Back at the school, the maintenance person gave me a tour of the building's mechanical facilities (heating, ventilation, back up power, fire protection, etc.) – the latest high tech computer controlled systems. He can control it all from the computer in his office and even check the systems on the Internet when he is out of town. It was impressive. He said in cold weather the new school uses up to 4,000 gallons of fuel a month – quite bit more than the old school.

These are two examples of why we have to keep an open mind when considering new options for energy, transportation, and economic development for our region.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Mark Leary
Director of Development & Operations

The Native Village of Napaimute
P.O. Box 1301
Bethel, AK. 99559

Ph: (907)543-2887

Fx: (907)543-2892

Email: napaimute@starband.net

Website: www.napaimute.org

**Native Village of Napakiak
IRA Council
P.O. Box 34069
Napakiak, AK 99634
P (907) 589-2135 F (907) 589-2136**

March 12, 2009

Senator Bob Herron
Alaska State Capitol, Rm 415
Juneau, AK 99801
T (907) 465-4942
F (907) 465-4589

Re: Testimony on HB 0

Honorable Co-Chairs and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Native village of Napakiak we want to thank the Alaska Legislature's efforts in addressing the energy needs of all Alaskans, particularly those of our region which has been faced with challenging humanitarian issues stemming from the ever increasing electric and fuel costs. We are sincerely grateful for last year's increase in the ceiling of the PCE program which has been helping our community. The PCE program helps us to maintain the critical circulation of little income and revenue we are able to have in our village. The PCE program is a priority and we respectfully ask for:

Continuation of the PCE program and perpetuation of the eligible costs ceiling at \$1.00.

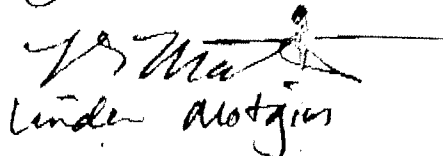
The AEA estimates the FY2010 cost of retaining the \$1.00 ceiling at \$3.4 million. The bulk of our village income is dedicated to paying for the upkeep of energy, and if the PCE rate drops, our electric costs will go up immediately. We realize that our local utilities will have to collect on those fuel costs in order to recover from 2008. Our families simply cannot afford to pay for this when their energy costs are already taking up to 70% of their disposable income.

We ask respectfully that the legislature provide funding to continue PCE at a cost ceiling of \$1.00 per kilowatt-hour (kWh.) And we are also asking you to consider increasing the household limit from 500kWh per month to the national average of 750kWh per month. Our local economy is fragile and vulnerable and needs consideration in the PCE program. We are asking for a restoration of PCE eligibility to businesses, clinics and other public facilities that were included in the program when it was originally enacted. This is critical to keep down inflation and increase the viability of our local economies in rural Alaska that are struggling or on the brink of failure.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,
NATIVE VILLAGE OF NAPAKIAK

for IRA Council


Linda Motzinger



OHOGAMIUT TRADITIONAL COUNCIL (OTC)

P.O. Box 49, Marshall, AK 99585

Ph: (907) 679-6517/6598

Fax (907) 679-6516

"Let us put our Minds Together and see what kind of Life we can build for our Children" –Sitting Bull

February 27, 2009

Allen Joseph, Grants Coordinator
AVCP RHA
P.O. Box 767
Bethel, AK 99559

RE: Representative Bob Herron on Rural Energy Issues

Dear Mr. Joseph:

The Ohogamiut Traditional Council (OTC) as a federally recognized tribe with jurisdiction in Marshall, Alaska, is advocating for long-term solutions to address the unrealistically high cost of living in Marshall spurred by high energy and transportation costs. Thus, the OTC requests that Mr. Robert Nick convey our plight to Representative Bob Herron and other dignitaries on the hearing on Rural Energy at Bethel Saturday February 28, 2009.

Marshall resident's pay \$7.11 with local taxes for heating fuel. \$6.21 with local taxes, and \$293.47 for one bottle of 100 pounds of propane. Other petroleum products like motor oil have also dramatically increased as well. Majority of the homes in Marshall are old and inadequately insulated/weatherized that contributes to the high consumption of heating fuel on a given cold spell. People are worried when the temperature drops because it means buying more stove oil with very little or no cash left on hand for groceries. Simply, we are forced to choose between food and heating fuel, which creates dilemma.

Though we in the Marshall area have more firewood available, record snowfall has covered logs along the river and other areas making it harder to look for wood to burn. Majority of the homes are equipped with Toyo, Laser stoves, and the newer AVCP homes utilize central boilers. On the average, families spend over \$1,000.00 per month on heating fuel alone with very little cash left to pay for utilities, groceries, and other lines of credit at the local stores. Many families are in debt with utility providers and it is certain that the AVEC will serve many disconnect notices this spring.

The unique challenges in Marshall reflect inflation spurred by the 2008 energy crisis is as follows:

- Colder than usual summer, fall, and winter of 2008-2009.
- Failed summer 2008 king salmon fishery, which is vital to the village economy.
- High grocery and store merchandise prices.
- Lines of local store credit maxed out for groceries and fuel.

- Area air travel to Bethel hub is unaffordable.
- Projected 2009 king salmon commercial fishery closure with subsistence harvest limitations.
- Local wild fire fighters crews did not go out summer 2008; income from this seasonal employment source is another important source of cash flow.
- High unemployment rates in the village as high as 85%.
- 85-90% of the village residents on public assistance.
- Stove oil and firewood theft on the rise.
- CITCO has not distributed free 100 gallons of heating fuel to eligible families to date.
- No local foodbanks for families with low food security.

We are requesting that the State of Alaska, federal government, and other agencies find long-term solutions to address the “third world-like” conditions here in the Wade Hampton District, by far; we are the poorest region in the country. Per capita income for our region was a mere \$8,717.00 during the 2000 Census with little changes to date.

Sincerely,

Jason S. Isaac, President

Nick P. Andrew, Jr., Executive Director

Cc: file:

City of Platinum
P.O. Box 47
Platinum, AK 99651

House Community & Regional Affairs Committee

RE: Testimony on HB 150

Honorable Co-Chairs and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Native Village of Platinum, AK; we want to thank the Alaska Legislature's efforts in addressing the energy needs of all Alaskans, particularly those of our region which has been faced with challenging humanitarian issues stemming from the ever increasing electric and fuel costs. We are sincerely grateful for last year's increase in the ceiling of the PCE program which has been helping our community. The PCE program helps us to maintain the critical circulation of little income and revenue we are able to have in our village. The PCE program is a priority and we respectfully ask for:

Continuation of the PCE program and perpetuation of the eligible costs ceiling at \$ 1.00.

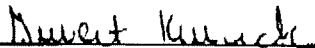
The AEA estimates the FY 2010 cost of retaining the \$ 1.00 ceiling at \$ 3.4 million. The bulk of our village income is dedicated to paying for the upkeep of energy, and if the PCE rate drops, our electric costs will go up immediately. We realize that our local utilities will have to collect on those fuel costs in order to recover from 2008. Our families simply cannot afford to pay for this when their energy costs are already taking up to 70 % of their disposable income.

We ask respectfully that the legislature provide funding to continue PCE at a cost ceiling of \$ 1.00 per. kilowatt-hour (kwh). And we are also asking you to consider increasing the household limit from 500 kwh per. month to the national average of 750 kwh per. month. Our local economy is fragile and vulnerable and needs consideration in the PCE program. We are asking for a restoration of PCE eligibility to businesses, clinics and other public facilities that were included in the program when it was originally enacted. This is critical to keep down inflation and increase the viability of our local economies in rural Alaska that are struggling or on the brink of failure.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Native Village of Platinum, AK



Gilbert Kilbuck (Mayor)

SLEETMUTE TRADITIONAL COUNCIL

P.O. Box: 109, Sleetmute, AK-99668; Ph: 907-449-4205; Fax: 907-449-4203

Email: sleetmutetraditionalcouncil@yahoo.com

House Community & Regional Affairs Committee

March 17, 2009

RE: Testimony on HB 150

Honorable Co-Chairs and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Native village of Sleetmute we want to thank the Alaska Legislature's efforts in addressing the energy needs of all Alaskans, particularly those of our region which has been faced with challenging humanitarian issues stemming from the ever increasing electric and fuel costs. We are sincerely grateful for last year's increase in the ceiling of the PCE program which has been helping our community. The PCE program helps us to maintain the critical circulation of little income and revenue we are able to have in our village. The PCE program is a priority and we respectfully ask for:

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely, Native Village of Sleetmute



Tribal Council President

TULUKSAK NATIVE COMMUNITY

P.O. BOX 95

TULUKSAK, ALASKA 99679

Telephone: (907) 695-6420

Fax Number: (907) 695-6932

March 16, 2009

House Community & Regional Affairs Committee

RE: Testimony on HB 150

Honorable Co-Chairs and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Native Village of Tuluksak, Alaska, we want to thank the Alaska Legislature's efforts in addressing the energy needs of all Alaskans, particularly those of our region which has been faced with challenging humanitarian issues stemming from the ever increasing electric and fuel costs. We are sincerely grateful for last year's increase in the ceiling of the PCE program which has been helping our community. The PCE program helps us to maintain the critical circulation of little income and revenue we are able to have in our village. The PCE program is a priority and we respectfully ask for:

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Thank-You for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Tuluksak Native Community


Joseph Alexie, TNC Council President