

# BRISTOL BAY NATIVE ASSOCIATION

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Friday, March 16, 2012

Representative Bryce Edgmon  
House of Representatives  
State Capitol, Room 416  
Juneau AK, 99801

Tribal Councils  
Served by BBNA:

Aleknagik

Chignik Bay

Chignik Lagoon

Chignik Lake

Clarks Point

Curyung

Egegik

Ekuk

Ekwo

Igiugig

Iliamna

Ivanof Bay

Kanatak

King Salmon

Kokhanok

Koliganek

Levelock

Manokotak

Naknek

New Stuyahok

Newhalen

Nondalton

Pedro Bay

Perryville

Pilot Point

Port Heiden

Portage Creek

South Naknek

Togiak

Twin Hills

Ugashik

**RE: Letter of Support for House Bill 294, "Returning Power Cost Equalization Program to 1998 Levels"**

Dear Mr. Edgmon,

The Bristol Bay Native Association is writing to express support of House Bill 294 and its intent to return the Power Cost Equalization program to its 1998 levels.

The high and volatile price of energy is a serious issue for Bristol Bay. The average price of electricity for residential customers is .5967 per kWh, and we anticipate rates to only increase - the majority of electric utilities in the region are powered by diesel-fired generators. The high rates impact all payers, including schools and businesses, and any assistance to help lower their energy expenses would greatly help with the costs for goods and services.

In general, we recognize the critical need for energy assistance - it is the only way to deliver an immediate solution to a long-term and pervasive problem. We also recognize the importance of pursuing solutions to help fix the problem including, conservation and alternative energy projects that help offset the need for fossil fuels.

The Bristol Bay Native Association appreciates your backing of policies and programs that support energy assistance, and again would like to express our support of House Bill 294.

Sincerely,

Ralph Andersen

President & Chief Executive Officer

Cc: Senator Gary Stevens  
Senator Lyman Hoffman  
Representative Bryce Edgmon  
Representative Alan Austerman