

The Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association, on behalf of the 13 federally-recognized tribes and four Head Start sites in our region, wish to thank Representative Edgmon, the co-sponsors of House Bill 294.

It is important that Head Start programs be included as a part of the school system and the Power Cost Equalization Program be made available to rural Head Start programs regardless of if they are housed in school district buildings, standalone Head Start Facilities or utilized space in a tribal or other community facility. Rapidly escalating electrical costs have directly impacted rural Head Start programs ability to provide for basic program needs such as Health, Safety oversight and nutritional services. Inclusion of the Head Start in the PCE program will allow resources to return to providing for these basic and required services for Alaska's most vulnerable citizens, our children. We are encouraged by this bill and strongly urge its passage.