



January 4, 2011

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

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

Dear Rep. Edgmon,

I am writing on behalf of Aleutian Housing Authority (AHA), one of the 14 state chartered regional housing authorities and a member of the Association of Alaska Housing Authorities (AAHA) to 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 Fund Program.

The program was created to provide funding to assist organizations attempting to develop senior citizen housing for seniors 60 years of age and older and whose incomes are in the low to moderate ranges. Acquisition, rehabilitation, accessibility modification and new construction of senior housing as well as pre-development activities are all eligible for grant awards.

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. Aleutian Housing 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,

Dan Duame
Executive Director

Cc: Heather Arnett, AAHA Statewide Administrator