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**CITY OF HOMER
HOMER, ALASKA**

Lewis/Zak/Burgess

RESOLUTION 13-019

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF HOMER, ALASKA, EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR HB 35, AN ACT CREATING A LOW-INTEREST LOAN PROGRAM FOR HOMEOWNERS WHO IMPROVE OR REPLACE THEIR HOME HEATING SYSTEMS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, The City of Homer will be receiving access to natural gas for the first time in 2013 with the construction of a natural gas trunk line into the community; and

WHEREAS, Natural gas has the potential to save homeowners in the Homer area thousands of dollars annually on home heating; and

WHEREAS, It can be very capital intensive for a homeowner to convert their home to natural gas; and

WHEREAS, The expense of conversion will keep many households from being able to realize the positive benefits of natural gas as a fuel source; and

WHEREAS, HB 35 creates a Home Heating Improvement Loan Program to finance the conversion of home heating systems to more efficient systems; and

WHEREAS, The low interest rate and favorable terms of the Home Heating Improvement Loan Program will allow many Alaskans to be able to take advantage of the program; and

WHEREAS, The revolving nature of the loan program established in HB 35 will ensure that the program can benefit Alaskans for years to come.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Homer supports HB 35 creating a low interest loan program for homeowners who improve or replace their home heating systems and providing for an effective date.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Homer encourages the Legislature to fund the Home Heating Improvement Loan Program to allow Homer residents to take advantage of the program as natural gas becomes available.

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PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Homer City Council this 11th day of February, 2013.

CITY OF HOMER


MARY E. WYTHE, MAYOR

ATTEST:


JO JOHNSON, CMC, CITY CLERK

Fiscal Note: N/A



**Alaska State
Home Building Association**

February 11, 2013

The Honorable Tammie Wilson
Alaska House of Representatives
State Capitol Building
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Subject: House Bill 35

Dear Representative Wilson:

Thank you for sponsoring House Bill 35, an Act creating a low-interest loan program for homeowners who improve home heating systems.

The Alaska State Home Building Association (ASHBA) Board of Directors has reviewed and discussed your bill, and would like to offer this statement of support. We see the challenges of high costs for energy and housing, and support helping families find affordable means to upgrade their heating systems.

As the Legislature works to resolve these issues during the session in Juneau, we encourage the Legislature to look at House Bill 35 as means to put potential solutions and opportunities on the table. Funding for a low interest loan program should be considered along with all of the requests for state subsidies to help lower the cost of energy.

Again, thank you for this opportunity to comment on behalf of our members.

Sincerely,

Jess Hall President
Alaska State Home Building Association

CITY OF KACHEMAK
KACHEMAK, ALASKA
RESOLUTION 2013-04

A RESOLUTION OF THE KACHEMAK CITY COUNCIL, EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR HOUSE BILL 35, AN ACT CREATING A LOW-INTEREST LOAN PROGRAM FOR HOMEOWNERS WHO IMPROVE OR REPLACE THEIR HOME HEATING SYSTEMS

WHEREAS, The City of Kachemak is constructing a natural gas distribution line throughout the City of Kachemak; and

WHEREAS, the gas distribution line will be paid for by assessments on real property in the Local Improvement District; and

WHEREAS, natural gas is estimated to be about 50% less expensive than fuel oil to heat with, as well as being a cleaner and more environmentally friendly fuel; and

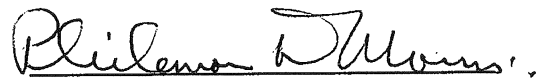
WHEREAS, in addition to the property assessment, there will be other costs incurred to be able to realize the savings of natural gas such as the service connection, service meter, and installing or retrofitting heaters and appliances for natural gas; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 35 will make it possible for more Alaskans to take advantage of the savings of natural gas or other energy sources by allowing them to receive a low interest loan to improve or replace their heating systems; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Kachemak City Council hereby expresses its strong support for House Bill 35, as it will enable Alaskans to take advantage of less expensive and cleaner forms of energy to heat their homes. .

PASSED and APPROVED by a duly constituted quorum of the City of Kachemak this 13th day of February, 2013.

CITY OF KACHEMAK


Philemon D. Morris, Mayor

ATTEST:


Helyn I. Schoepke, City Clerk

CITY OF SEWARD

P.O. Box 167
410 Adams Street
Seward, Alaska 99664-0167



- Main Office (907) 224-4050
- Police (907) 224-3338
- Harbor (907) 224-3138
- Fire (907) 224-3445
- City Clerk (907) 224-4046
- Community Development (907) 224-4049
- Utilities (907) 224-4050
- Fax (907) 224-4038

February 5, 2013

Honorable Representative Wilson, Co-sponsors, and Members of the Energy Committee,

The City and citizens of Seward share your concerns about the high cost of energy in Alaska, and its effect on family budgets. We also share a desire to find solutions that will help residents reduce those costs, regardless of what their fuel source may be.

The low cost loan proposed in HB 35 will be a significant positive step, allowing families to adapt their homes to cleaner and more efficient heating systems in an affordable way and reduce the amount of fuel consumed. The bill also makes the program available to families utilizing a newly available fuel source to them when they might not otherwise be able to afford the new equipment.

The safeguards incorporated into the legislation would determine and quantify cost savings for the homeowner, and prevent abuse for the loan fund and the State.

We appreciate your bringing this bill forward, believe it to be in the best interest of the State, and urge adoption by the Legislature.

Sincerely,

Mayor David Seaward
City of Seward, Alaska