



Denali Commission
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February 9, 2015

To: Members of the Alaska Legislature

Re: House Bill 58 – Eligibility for Alaska Energy Efficiency Loans

This letter is provided to support the expansion of the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation (AHFC) energy efficiency loan program to Tribal groups and non-profits – specifically 501c(3), (4), (6), (12) and (19) organizations. The following is offered.

1. The Denali Commission is working on a number of fronts to address the high cost of energy (both heating and electricity) in rural Alaska. One effort we are exploring, and have made some modest investments with program partners, is a community-scale approach to bundling energy audit, energy efficiency improvements and post construction monitoring contracts. We believe that bundling of contracts will lower audit and construction costs for all building owners.
2. Equally important is that the high cost of travel to rural Alaska is a potential barrier for carrying out post construction monitoring of the energy efficiency improvements. Post construction monitoring is an invaluable component of energy efficiency improvements as this provides an opportunity to “reset” any energy efficiency improvements that are not performing as expected. If more rural Alaska building owners have carried out energy efficiency improvements, then the cost of the post construction monitoring is shared amongst the building owners and the cost may then become less cost prohibitive.
3. It is my opinion that a community by community approach to lowering the energy usage of all non-residential buildings will be a significant step in making our rural communities more resilient. House Bill 58 will make it easier for communities to carry out community-scale energy efficiency improvements.
4. When the Commission has more data from our initial investments on community-scale energy improvements for non-residential buildings, I will be happy to share the results with the State Legislature.

I can be reached at 907-271-1440 should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Joel Neimeyer".

Joel Neimeyer
Federal Co-Chair

cc: Scott Waterman, AHFC