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April 6, 2015

State of Alaska Senate Finance Committee Members
via email to finance.committee@akleg.gov

Dear Senators:

The AHFC Supplemental Housing Development Grant leverages a tremendous amount of federal funding from Housing and Urban Development for construction of desperately needed new homes and repairs to older sub-standard homes. For every \$100,000 in the AHFC Supplemental Grant, at least 80% match or \$500,000 in federal HUD money is leveraged. The amount of federal funding in the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA) is unable to meet the need. The Regional Housing Authorities are using the Supplemental Funding to leverage nationally competitive HUD grants as well. There is no other resource available that can do this. Without the AHFC Supplemental Housing Development Grant, fewer homes will be constructed to meet the homelessness and over-crowding conditions.

The AHFC Weatherization program increases the energy efficiency of the low-income homes across the State and in Bristol Bay making it possible for people to afford to live and raise their families here. In Bristol Bay, there are still a number of villages that have not yet received Weatherization services due to the tremendous need in the region. A minimum of 5 additional years is needed to reach the remaining villages in our region.

Without the Weatherization Program, families have to make the difficult decision of whether they can afford heating fuel or food for their families. Improving the energy efficiency of these homes makes it possible to continue to live and work in Bristol Bay.

On behalf of the 30 villages in the Bristol Bay region of Alaska with tremendous need for housing and weatherization, BBHA earnestly implores you to restore AHFC Supplemental funding and Weatherization funding. Thank you in advance for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

BRISTOL BAY HOUSING AUTHORITY

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brenda Akelkok", is written over the printed name.

Brenda Akelkok,
Executive Director