

HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE
April 9, 2008
5:45 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

Co-Chair Chenault called the House Finance Committee meeting to order at [5:45:10 PM](#).

MEMBERS PRESENT

Representative Mike Chenault, Co-Chair
Representative Bill Stoltze, Vice-Chair
Representative Harry Crawford
Representative Les Gara
Representative Mike Hawker
Representative Reggie Joule
Representative Mike Kelly
Representative Bill Thomas Jr.

MEMBERS ABSENT

Representative Kevin Meyer, Co-Chair
Representative Richard Foster
Representative Mary Nelson

ALSO PRESENT

Pete Ecklund, Staff, Representative Kevin Meyer;
Representative Woodie Salmon; Representative Fairclough.

PRESENT VIA TELECONFERENCE

Michael Meliello, President, Chugiak Eagle Chamber Of Commerce; Beth Landon, Director, Alaska Center Rural Health, University of Alaska, Anchorage (UAA); Cynthia Henry, Board Of Regents, University of Alaska, Fairbanks (UAF); Jim Czarnezki, Soldotna; Rodney Clark, President, Goose Lake Foundation, Anchorage; Mike Navarre, Arctic Power, Anchorage; David Smith, North Slope Borough Rural Villages, Anchorage ; Gary Olson, Chairman, Alaska Moose Federation, Alaska; Kathy Morgan, Tok Community Umbrella Corp.

GENERAL SUBJECT(S):

Vice-Chair Stoltze MOVED to ADOPT Work Draft for HCS for SB 221(FIN), 25-GS2007\N, Kane, 4/9/08 (Copy on File). There being NO OBJECTION, it was so ordered.

[5:46:47 PM](#)

PETE ECKLUND, STAFF, REPRESENTATIVE KEVIN MEYER, explained the bill spreadsheet (from "2008 Legislature, Capital Budget, House District Summary," Copy on File). New sections

have been added to make the bill more understandable. He highlighted:

- Sec. 4: Slow-track supplemental
- Sec. 7: Formerly vetoed projects
- Sec. 10: Items added by the House and Governor
- Sec. 13: Items added by the Senate and Governor
- Sec. 16: Cruise ship impact funds
- Sec. 19: Informational, including projects in the General Obligation Transportation Bond bill

Mr. Ecklund pointed out that in the Senate \$447 million worth of Governor's priorities were added into the version of the Capital Budget, as well as \$224 million of House members' priorities.

Representative Gara asked if the \$447 and \$224 million was a combination of General Fund, other and federal funds. He asked what the totals were for non-federal funds. Mr. Ecklund answered that for the Governor, \$285 million was General Fund, \$48 million was federal, and \$114 million was other. All the funds were state funds in the items added by the Legislature.

Co-Chair Chenault OPENED PUBLIC TESTIMONY.

The following overview was taken in log note format. All testifiers testified via teleconference. Handouts will be on file with the House Finance Committee through the 25th Legislative Session, contact 465-6814. After the 25th Legislative Session they will be available through the Legislative Library at 465-3808.

TIME	SPEAKER	DISCUSSION
5:50:00 PM	MICHAEL MELIELO, PRESIDENT, CHUGIAK EAGLE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	Asked for an additional \$2 million for the Eagle River Town Center project, which would revitalize the town core. It would house the police station, library, medical facilities, and other departments.
	Vice-Chair Stoltze	Spoke to an amendment being offered regarding the project.
5:52:54 PM	BETH LANDON, DIRECTOR, ALASKA CENTER RURAL HEALTH, UAA	Requested \$250,000 for a program preparing youth for local health-care jobs, called "A Heck of a Summer." The funds will not go to the University but to four health organizations.
5:56:14 PM	CYNTHIA HENRY, BOARD OF REGENTS, UAF, FAIRBANKS	Supported the revised number of \$44 million for badly needed major maintenance for University facilities. The Board would like stability in

		funding for the University to meet increasing needs in Alaska for trained skills.
5:59:15 PM	JIM CZARNEZKI, SOLDOTNA	Requested adding \$200,000 for the Kenai River Public Use Study which addresses crowding on the river, the first step required before DNR can address the issue of crowding.
6:00:12 PM	RODNEY CLARK, PRESIDENT, GOOSE LAKE FOUNDATION, ANCHORAGE	Requested appropriation for much needed improvements to the buildings at Goose Lake Park, a facilities used extensively by at-risk youth.
6:03:19 PM	MIKE NAVARRE, ARCTIC POWER, ANCHORAGE	Requested \$250,000 for Arctic Power to increase the staff in D.C. to track threat of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge being designated as a wilderness area.
6:06:18 PM	DAVID SMITH, NORTH SLOPE BOROUGH RURAL VILLAGES, ANCHORAGE	Stated concerns about Sec. 32, City of Nuiqsut youth recreation budgeted for \$50,000. The reduction would cut the staff in half; they need an additional \$100,000. The city of Wainwright has more population than the cities of Atkasuk and Nuiqsut combined, yet is allotted far less money. They need an additional \$100,000.
6:08:39 PM	GARY OLSON, CHAIRMAN, ALASKA MOOSE FEDERATION, ALASKA	Asked for an appropriation for Moose Mitigation Strategies within the Department of Transportation Strategic Highway Safety Plan to address on-going collisions caused by moose on the highways. Lives are at stake. They need \$545,000 for equipment; \$548,000 for personnel and overhead, including fuel.
6:12:20 PM	KATHY MORGAN, TOK COMMUNITY UMBRELLA CORPORATION	Requested \$7 to 10 million for a project turning spruce trees in extreme wildfire danger into chips to be burned in wood-chip boilers to heat public buildings. The project would significantly reduce fire danger and heating costs for six communities, create a local sustainable economy, and improve the health of the forest.
6:14:27 PM	AT EASE	
6:15:47 PM	RECONVENE	
	Co-Chair Chenault	PUBLIC TESTIMONY CLOSED.
6:16:33 PM	RECESSED	SB 221 was HEARD and HELD in Committee for further consideration.
7:32:43 PM	ADJOURNMENT	The meeting was adjourned at 7:33 PM.

