

Original sponsor(s): REP. MACLEAN, Ulmer, Goll, Hoffman, Wallis, Kubina,
Brown, Koponen, Zawacki

1 IN THE HOUSE BY THE C&RA COMMITTEE
2 SENATE CS FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 80 (C&RA)
3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
4 SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Urging revision of housing requirements
6 of the United States Department of
7 Housing and Urban Development to improve
8 design, construction, and maintenance of
9 homes in rural Alaska.

10 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

11 WHEREAS the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development
12 plays a leading role in providing housing in rural Alaska; and

13 WHEREAS most of those homeowners are not involved in construction de-
14 cisions about the homes in which they will live and for which they will
15 ultimately pay the energy bills; and

16 WHEREAS the Rural Housing Needs Assessment found that the owners of 36
17 percent of rural homes could not maintain a comfortable inside temperature
18 within their homes, despite paying extremely high winter heating bills; and

19 WHEREAS the state spends tens of millions of dollars annually in
20 subsidizing the costs of heating fuel and electricity and in providing
21 weatherization assistance to substandard homes; and

22 WHEREAS, by designing and constructing homes to meet energy standards
23 appropriate to the state's climate, the United States Department of Housing
24 and Urban Development could help reduce these costs substantially; and

25 WHEREAS the current maximum amount that the United States Department
26 of Housing and Urban Development makes available for the construction of a
27 rural home is too low to ensure that the home constructed may be affordably
28 heated; and

29 WHEREAS the department's Comprehensive Improvement Assistance Program,

1 providing resources to regional housing authorities to retrofit existing
2 department-assisted homes, is overly restrictive in its eligibility re-
3 quirements for mutual help housing, the predominant housing assistance
4 program for rural Alaska;

5 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature requests that the
6 United States Department of Housing and Urban Development provide greater
7 flexibility in allowing regional housing authorities to allocate more money
8 per residence for the design and construction of the residence and instruc-
9 tion in maintenance techniques to improve its energy efficiency and struc-
10 tural integrity; and be it

11 FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature respectfully requests that the
12 Congress give greater flexibility in the use of the Comprehensive Improve-
13 ment Assistance Program for mutual help housing, to allow existing depart-
14 ment-assisted homes to meet minimum energy efficiency standards and to make
15 repairs for structural damages that affect energy efficiency.

16 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Jack Kemp,
17 Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; and to
18 the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators,
19 and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska
20 delegation in Congress.