

**COMMITTEE REPORT**  
**SENATE**

FURTHER: None

6/9/81

Date: 6/11/81

Mr. President:

The Committee on FINANCE has had HB 196 am(title)  
establishment of the Alaska State Climate Center and a state weather and  
climate program

under consideration and (a majority of the committee) (the committee)  
reports it back with the following recommendations:

- do pass  do not pass
- do pass with attached <sup>amendments</sup> amendments(s)  same title
- replace with CS for \_\_\_\_\_  new title  
and recommends \_\_\_\_\_
- AND attaches a "Letter of Intent"  New Fiscal Note
- reports it back without recommendation
- referred to the \_\_\_\_\_ Committee

MEMBERS SIGNING  
DO PASS

[Signature]  
[Signature]  
[Signature]  
[Signature]  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
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MEMBERS HAVING  
OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS:

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\_\_\_\_\_  
CHAIRMAN

AMENDMENT

OFFERED IN THE SENATE:

By: Senate Resources

To: \_\_\_\_\_ SENATE BILL No. \_\_\_\_\_

HOUSE BILL No. HB 196

PAGE: 3

LINE: 2

(technical error)

After "climate-" delete "re" and add "related"

Introduced: 2/19/81  
Referred: Health, Education &  
Social Services and Finance

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY THE RULES COMMITTEE BY  
REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR

2 HOUSE BILL 196 am(title)

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 TWELFTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to establishment of the Alaska State  
7 Climate Center and a state weather and climate  
8 program."

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

10 \* Section 1. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS. The legislature finds that:

11 (1) weather and climate changes affect all human activities and  
12 general welfare;

13 (2) an understanding of weather and climate patterns is essential  
14 to food and energy production; construction; natural resource development  
15 and management; determinations of land use; community development; improve-  
16 ment of transportation, communications, and use of water resources; and the  
17 well-being of the people of Alaska;

18 (3) programs of basic and applied climatic research are important  
19 functions of several University of Alaska institutes and centers, including  
20 the Agricultural Experiment Station; the Arctic Environmental Information  
21 and Data Center; the Geophysical Institute; the Institutes of Arctic Bio-  
22 logy, Marine Science, and Water Resources; and the Alaska Sea Grant Program;

23 (4) weather and climate information is essential to the programs  
24 of several agencies, especially the Departments of Commerce and Economic  
25 Development, Environmental Conservation, Fish and Game, Natural Resources,  
26 Public Safety, and Transportation and Public Facilities;

27 (5) the National Climate Program Act, 15 U.S.C. 2901-2908, pro-  
28 vides for the establishment of a program for federal and state cooperative  
29 activities in climate studies and advisory services, and for annual grants

1 to states for these activities if the state has adopted a state climate  
2 program in accordance with the provisions of the National Climate Program  
3 Act;

4 (6) the Arctic Environmental Information and Data Center present-  
5 ly provides climatological services for the state under agreement between  
6 the University of Alaska and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Adminis-  
7 tration; and

8 (7) by virtue of the National Climate Program Act, it would be  
9 highly beneficial for the State of Alaska to establish a state weather and  
10 climate program to recognize and improve the existing program, and to de-  
11 velop additional programs as required.

12 \* Sec. 2. AS 14.40 is amended by adding a new section to read:

13 Sec. 14.40.085. ESTABLISHMENT OF ALASKA STATE CLIMATE CENTER.

14 (a) The university shall establish an Alaska State Climate Center  
15 within an appropriate unit of the university. The administration and  
16 management of the center is under the direction of a university em-  
17 ployee designated the "state climatologist."

18 (b) The Alaska State Climate Center shall:

19 (1) prepare and update on a biennial basis a plan for the  
20 systematic acquisition and dissemination of climate-related informa-  
21 tion; the plan must include:

22 (A) an assessment of weather and climate information  
23 needs in Alaska;

24 (B) a reasonable basis for setting priorities among  
25 these needs; and

26 (C) a program for coordinating the activities of all  
27 available sources of weather- and climate-related information  
28 sources in order to meet the highest priority needs and to carry  
29 out the provisions of this section;

1 (2) establish a state climate planning advisory group com-  
2 posed of at least three members from organizations which provide climate <sup>delete</sup>  
3 information, and at least three members from organizations which use ~~add~~ <sup>related</sup>  
4 climate-related information on a regular basis or from the general  
5 public;

6 (3) solicit and consider the advice and recommendations of  
7 the state climate planning advisory group in preparing and updating the  
8 biennial plan for acquisition and dissemination of climate-related  
9 information;

10 (4) operate and maintain a central repository and archive  
11 for reports, books, maps and other records, and publications relating  
12 to weather and climatological information;

13 (5) provide for public access to weather and climatological  
14 information and technical advisory services; and

15 (6) enter into cooperative agreements, on behalf of the  
16 state and the university, in order to achieve intergovernmental climate  
17 program participation by the United States and the state; these agree-  
18 ments must be consistent with the provisions of the National Climate  
19 Program Act, 15 U.S.C. 2901 -- 2908.

20 (c) The Alaska State Climate Center may:

21 (1) investigate, describe, and interpret the characteristics  
22 of the weather and climate of the state, including its hazards and  
23 limitations;

24 (2) coordinate with state and federal agencies in matters  
25 concerning weather data acquisition, collection, integration and stor-  
26 age;

27 (3) monitor federal weather-related activities to assure  
28 that the interests of the state are being served;

29 (4) conduct research activities on the availability of

1 solar, wind, and water resources which assess the impact of climate  
2 fluctuations on these resources;

3 (5) publish bulletins, circulars, maps, or reports of the  
4 results of all research and investigations undertaken by the climate  
5 center, and distribute them to state agencies, government officials,  
6 industry, and the public;

7 (6) provide lectures, talks, displays, and exhibits on the  
8 climate of the state for the general education of the public; and

9 (7) enter into cooperative arrangements with local, state,  
10 and federal government agencies; foundations; universities; businesses;  
11 and other organizations engaged in climate-related research and ser-  
12 vices.

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THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA  
ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE

FISCAL NOTE

I. REQUEST  
 Bill/Resolution No. HB 196 am(title)  
 Title An Act relating to establishment of the Alaska State Weather and Climate  
 Requested by Program and Alaska State Climate Center Date 6/18/81

II. FISCAL DETAIL  
 Agency Affected University of Alaska  
 Program Category Affected Public Information Service  
 BRU, Program, or Subprogram(s) Affected Org. Research, Arctic Environmental Info. Data Center  
 (Note: If more than one budget component is affected, separate line-item amounts and funding for each component in the analysis section.)

EXPENDITURES (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY 80	FY 81	FY 82	FY 83	FY 84	FY 85
100 PERSONAL SERVICES			77.7			
200 TRAVEL			6.8			
300 CONTRACTUAL			16.4			
400 COMMODITIES			4.6			
500 EQUIPMENT			8.5			
600 LAND & STRUCTURES						
700 GRANTS, CLAIMS, ETC.						
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>114.0</b>			

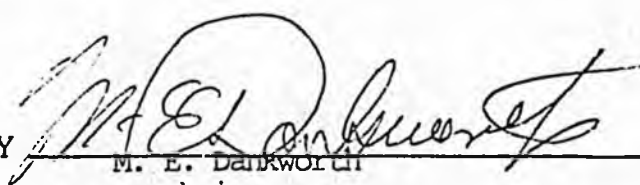
FUNDING (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND			114.0			
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER (Specify Fund Source)						

POSITIONS

FULL TIME			3			
PART TIME			1			
TEMPORARY						

III. ANALYSIS (See Fiscal Note Preparation Instructions, Section III)

IV. DATE June 18, 1981 PREPARED BY   
 AGENCY M. E. Darkworth  
 PHONE Co-chairman  
 Original: Legislative Finance  
 cc: Budget and Management  
 Prime Sponsor (First Legislator Named) Senate Finance Committee  
3753

FISCAL NOTE

I. REQUEST

Bill/Resolution No. HOUSE BILL NO. 196 (Page 1 of 3)  
 Title An Act relating to establishment of the Alaska State weather and Climate Program and Alaska State Climate Center  
 Requested by the Rules Committee by Request of the Governor Date: \_\_\_\_\_

II. FISCAL DETAIL

Agency Affected University of Alaska  
 Program Category Affected Public Information Service  
 BRU, Program, or Subprogram(s) Affected Org. Research, Arctic Environmental Info & Data Cnt  
 (Note: If more than one budget component is affected, separate line-item amounts and funding for each component in the analysis section.)  
EXPENDITURES (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY 81	FY 82	FY 83	FY 84	FY 85	FY 86
100 PERSONAL SERVICES		77.7	83.2	89.0	95.2	101.9
200 TRAVEL		6.8	7.7	8.8	10.0	11.4
300 CONTRACTUAL		16.4	18.7	21.3	24.3	27.7
400 COMMODITIES		4.6	5.2	5.9	6.7	7.6
500 EQUIPMENT		8.5	2.9	1.6	1.6	1.6
600 LAND & STRUCTURES						
700 GRANTS, CLAIMS, ETC.						
TOTAL		114.0	117.7	126.6	137.8	150.2

FUNDING (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND		114.0	117.7	126.6	137.8	150.2
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER (Specify Fund Source)						

POSITIONS

FULL TIME *		3	3	3	3	3
PART TIME		1	1	1	1	1
TEMPORARY						

\*Of these, one position is new

III. ANALYSIS (See Fiscal Note Preparation Instructions, Section III)

This bill establishes formally a state weather and climate program to recognize and improve the existing program and develop additional program elements.

Since July of 1973 the University of Alaska's Arctic Environmental Information and Data Center has absorbed the costs of public climate information services previously furnished by the National Weather Service's regional/state climatology program. During FY81 the center dedicated 7 man months to this effort. Due to increasing demand for such services caused by both government and private interest in alternative energies, resource development and transportation, etc., the need arises for an increase in the level of effort by 21 man months,

(see attached page 2)

IV. DATE February 4, 1981

PREPARED BY Willy E. Rensenbrink

AGENCY Arctic Environmental Information and Data Center, University of Alaska

Original: Legislative Finance

cc: Budget and Management

Prime Sponsor (First Legislator Named)

PHONE: 279-4523

HOUSE BILL NO. 196 (Page 2 of 3)

making for a total dedicated 28 man months. The above personal service dollar figure is based on 6 additional man months for a combination of 2 atmospheric scientists, 8 additional man months of a science technician, and 6 man months for a new position of data control clerk.

This will also provide for increased user oriented services through: design of wind data summaries for wind power; environmental data information specifically for solar energy; climatic data information for construction design planning, etc.; initiation of summaries and the extension of record periods of existing summaries by computer processing of voluminous raw data.

Years subsequent to FY82 have been estimated by using a 7% increment factor in personal services and a 14% inflationary factor in travel, contractual, and commodities. These factors will be subject to changes in the actual price structures.

- 2 -

PREPARED BY Williy E. Kensenbrink  
AGENCY Arctic Environmental Information and Data  
Center, University of Alaska

Original: Legislative Finance  
cc: Budget and Management      PHONE: 279-4523  
Prime Sponsor (First Legislator Named)

BUDGETARY BACK-UP FOR

- FY82 PROJECTED

## PERSONAL SERVICES:

(incl. Staff Benefits)

	MAN MONTHS TOTAL			This budget			Amount
	FY81	GF	RF	FY82	GF	RF	
J. Wise, Atmosph.Sci.	4		8	9		3	\$ 29,070
A. Comiskey, Atmosph.Sci.	1		5	3		3	10,712
R. Becker, Sci. Technician	2		10	10		2	22,504
Data Control Clerk Gr. 12	-		-	6		6	15,438
				Total Personal Services			77,724

## TRAVEL:

In-State Meetings & Conferences	2,800	
Out-of-State Meetings and Confs.	<u>4,000</u>	
Total Travel		6,800

## CONTRACTUAL:

Programming Consultant	5,700	
Duplicator rental	2,050	
Microfilm services	1,900	
Computer charges/time sharing	2,300	
Communications	3,250	
Equipment maintenance and misc.	<u>1,200</u>	
Total Contractual Services		16,400

## COMMODITIES:

Climate data acquisition	1,220	
Office and computer supplies	2,800	
Storage boxes and misc.	<u>580</u>	
Total Commodities		4,600

## EQUIPMENT:

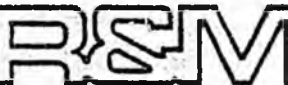
Computer I/O equipment	6,800	
Microfiche & tape storage cabs.	1,150	
Calculator	<u>550</u>	
Total Equipment		8,500

TOTAL PROJECTED FY82 EXPENDITURES

\$114,024

PREPARED BY Willy E. Rensenbrink  
 AGENCY Arctic Environmental Information and Data  
Center, University of Alaska  
 PHONE: 279-4523

Original: Legislative Finance  
 Budget and Management  
 Prime Sponsor (First Legislator Named)



R&amp;M CONSULTANTS, INC. 5024 CORDOVA • BOX 6087 • ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99502 • PH. 907-279-0483 • TLX 090-25290

ENGINEERS  
GEOLOGISTS  
PLANNERS  
SURVEYORS

June 2, 1981

R&amp;M No. 150001

Senator Arliss Sturgulewski  
Alaska State Legislature  
Pouch V  
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Re: House Bill 196, Funding for State Climatologist

Dear Senator Sturgulewski:

It has been brought to my attention that HB 196 considers funding for the state climatologist. I would like to express the importance of this service to the engineering and scientific community in hopes that the funding will be passed and consideration given to expanding the program.

Currently, we are relying quite heavily on this service for the following projects:

- Susitna Hydroelectric Feasibility Study
- Kuparuk Development Area, Prudhoe Bay
- Village of Emmonak, Erosion Control Project
- Aleutian Villages, HUD Housing Project

The problem that we are faced with in the private sector is that decisions have to be made in the timely and professional manner. A basis for many decisions, is the extent and quality of existing data. Since the climatological data base in Alaska is relatively sparse, convenient access to data for performing analyses in preparation for deriving decisions can be critical. Reliance on the Federal Government (NOAA) has proved to be inefficient and time consuming, simply because their data center exists on the east coast.

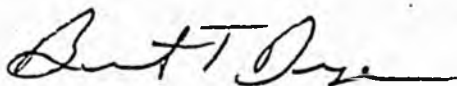
Mr. Jim Wise, State Climatologist, has been responsive to our requests, however it is becoming evident that the demand for this service is growing. Expansion of his department to allow for efficient data dissemination and climatological analyses will definitely aid and assist the professional community in developing Alaska.

June 2, 1981  
Senator Arliss Sturgulewski  
Page 2

Your attention to this matter will be greatly appreciated. If I can assist further in clarifying our position, please do not hesitate to call me.

Very truly yours,

R&M CONSULTANTS, INC.



Brent T. Drage, P.E.  
Senior Engineer

BTD/jxz

cc: Jim Wise, AEIDC

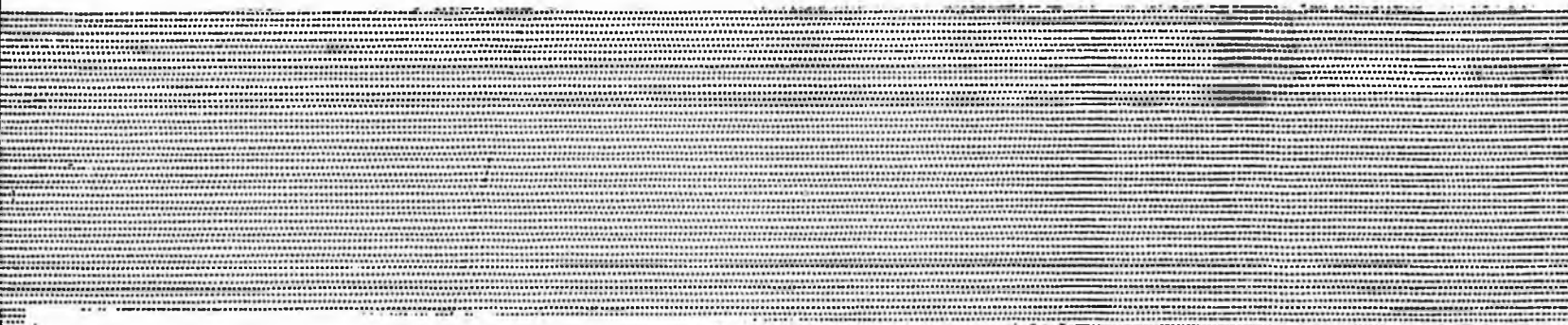
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HB 196

MSG 81-00020541 PRTY 1 06/10/81 12:50:16 ORIG: LA00 IN= 0004 OUT= 0051  
FROM: MARCIE, ANC INFO TO: POM, JUNEAU INFO  
TARGET: LJH2 SUBJ: POMS PAGE 0004

TO: SENATORS BENNETT, DANKWORTH, ELIASON, FERGUSON, SACKETT,  
STIMSON, AND STURGULEWSKI  
FROM: G. C. CONTRACTORS, CLIFTON TWEEDY, PRESIDENT  
P. O. BOX 2281, ANCHORAGE 99510 (277-8014)  
RE: HOUSE BILL 196

WE URGE PASSAGE OF THIS BILL AS A GENERAL CONTRACTOR WHO NEEDS THIS  
CLIMATE INFORMATION IN ORDER TO INTELLIGENTLY BID PROJECTS THROUGH OUT THE  
STATE.

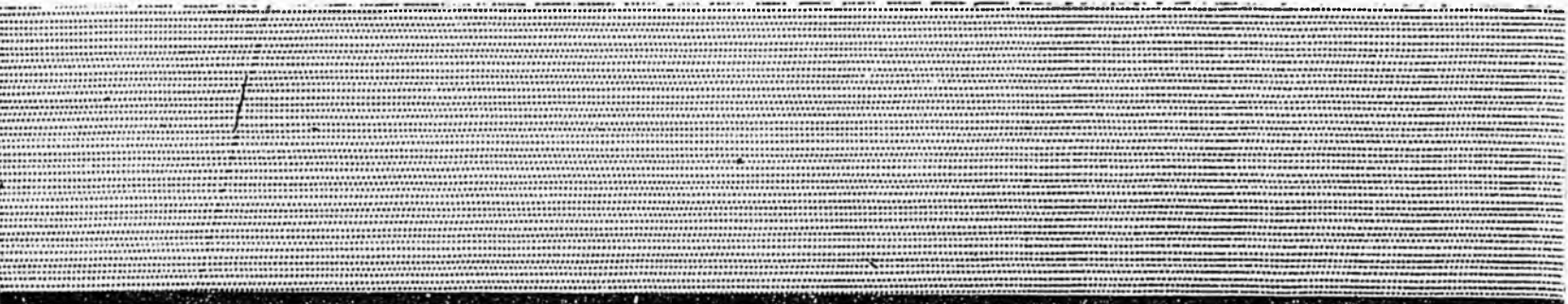


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MSG 81-00020541 PRTY 1 06/10/81 12:50:16 ORIG: LA00 IN= 0004 OUT= 0051  
FROM: MARCIE, ANC INFO TO: POM, JUNEAU INFO  
TARGET: LJH2 SUBJ: POMS PAGE 0001

TO: SENATORS BENNETT AND DANKWORTH, CO-CHAIRMEN, SENATE FINANCE  
AND SENATORS ELIASON, FERGUSON, SACKETT, STIMSON,  
STURGULEWSKI  
FROM: RICHARD BECKER, 2021 FARMER PLACE, ANC 99504 (333-4501)  
RE: HOUSE BILL 196

THIS BILL SHOULD BE BROUGHT UP IN SENATE FINANCE THIS SESSION. IT SHOULD  
BE PASSED FOR MANY STATE, FEDERAL AND PRIVATE PROJECTS NEED CLIMATE INFO AT  
DIFFERENT STAGES OF COMPLETION. THANK YOU.



HB 196

TELEGRAM

ALASKA  
PHONE 58-5848  
JUN 20, 1967

92438 NL ANCHORAGE AK 81 06-09 2046 ADT

PMS SEN APLISS STUPGULEWSKI

1907

JUNE 20

CLIMATE INFORMATION AND SERVICES IN THIS STATE ARE NOT ADEQUATE.  
THE ARCTIC ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION AND DATA CENTER DOES PRETTY  
GOOD WITH WHAT THEY HAVE. THE PROBLEM IS THEY DONT HAVE ANYTHING.  
IT APPEARS TO BE A HAND TO MOUTH OPERATION. I UNDERSTAND THEIR  
IS A BILL IN THE SENATE THAT MAY HELP THE SITUATION. IF THIS IS  
THE CASE, LETS GET IT MOVING. IT CERTAINLY CANT COST THAT MUCH.  
MANY THANKS.

ROY MUSGROVE, PRESIDENT, ALASKA EXPRESS

4601 AIRCRAFT DRIVE, INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

ANCHORAGE AK 99503



UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA

June 12, 1981

Ms. Alison Elgee  
Legislative Finance  
Pouch WF  
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Ms. Elgee:

This follows up our telephone conversation of the afternoon of June 11.

In FY 81 General Fund appropriation monies for four employees working in the Climate Center here at AEIDC were budgeted for only seven man months total. In addition the Restricted Fund budget was for 37 man months support from expected contracts.

In actuality two things happened. Public service requests for climatic data soared and contractual revenues dropped sharply, in the latter half of the fiscal year. In order to provide a minimal, but hopefully satisfactory, level of service some General Fund salary monies were reallocated to the Climate Center group.

The result is shown in the following table:

Employee	General Fund (months)		Restricted Fund (months)		Leave without pay (months)
	Budgeted	Actual	Budgeted	Actual	
James Wise, State Climatologist	4	8	8	4	-
Al Comiskey, Atmospheric Sciences	1	3.25	7	3	1.75
Richard Becker, Science Technician	2	6	10	6	-
Bonnie McGraw, Data Clerk	0	6	12	6	-
TOTALS	7	23.25	32	19	1.75

As a result of this shift and the general lack of contracts during this last half of FY 81, several other employees at AEIDC were placed on leave without pay.

For Fiscal Year 1982 we foresee a continued increase in requests for climate data. In fact it may be greater than earlier expected due to legislation on new hydroelectric and agriculture projects, etc. plus a large number of construction projects all demanding climate data preparation for feasibility studies and/or design.

UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA

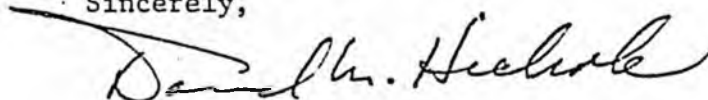
Ms. Alison Elgee  
Page 2  
June 12, 1981

The fiscal note on HB 196 calls for an increase in budgeted salary months of General Fund support from the FY 81 level of seven man months to a total FY 82 level of 28 man months or an increase of 21 months of general fund support. This should allow us to keep up with public service demands. We still anticipate the receipt of contracts for additional support, but candidly I am quite worried about this due to the large federal cutbacks. Hopefully, some contracts from state programs will come along. In any event the Restricted Fund budget dollars are already contained within AEIDC's portion of the Organized Research BRU in the University budget.

If HB 196 passes, the General Fund appropriation will just reduce the amount of AEIDC's Restricted Fund budget by the amount of the fiscal note, \$114,024. In other words, the aggregate of General Fund and Restricted Fund monies for AEIDC within the University budget is not affected.

I hope this answers your questions, if not I will be glad to work further with you to clarify matters.

Sincerely,



David M. Hickok  
Director

DMH/pp

cc: Senator Arliss Sturgulewski  
Keith Specking, Office of the Governor

HB 196

February 18, 1981

The Honorable Jim Duncan  
Speaker of the House  
Alaska State Legislature  
Pouch V  
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Under the authority of art. III, sec. 18, of the Alaska Constitution, I am transmitting a bill relating to the establishment of a state climate and weather program and a state climate center. This bill was originally introduced in the last legislature as HB 413. This version is virtually identical to the House Resources Committee's CSHB 413.

The program would begin with the preparation of a plan, updated on a biennial basis, for the acquisition and dissemination of climate related data and information. The plan would include an assessment of the state's climate data and information needs, a basis for establishing priorities among these needs, and a program for orchestrating activities directed toward meeting these needs. A State Climate Planning Advisory Group, composed of members from organizations which provide climate related information and data and from the public sector and organizations which use this information, would participate in preparing and updating the plan.

In order to implement the plan, the bill would provide that the state climate center be established within the University of Alaska. The center would operate and maintain a central repository for information and data relating to the weather and climate of Alaska, provide weather and climatological information and technical advisory services to climate information users, and cooperate with other state and federal agencies in order to satisfy the intergovernmental climate program participation requirements of the National Climate Program Act.

In addition, the center would be authorized to investigate the characteristics of Alaska's climate;

research and assess the impact of climate fluctuations on the availability of solar, wind, and water resources; make available the results of all research undertaken by the center; contribute to the general education of the public on the climate of the state; and enter into cooperative arrangements with other organizations engaged in climate-related research.

This bill is consistent with the provisions of the National Climate Program Act, Public Law 95-367, under which the state may be eligible to receive up to a 50 percent grant to cover the costs of conducting climate-related studies and providing climate-related services.

Sincerely,

S/JS H

Jay S. Hammond  
Governor



UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA

April 28, 1981

Honorable Jay Kerttula  
President of the Senate  
Alaska State Legislature  
Pouch V  
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Mr. President:

Pending in the House Finance Committee is HB 196, "An Act relating to the establishment of the Alaska State Climate Center and a state weather and climate program."

I am exceedingly concerned that unless this bill moves out of committee and passes the House and Senate that AEIDC will be forced, for lack of funds, to cut back the level of climate information services we have historically offered. For several years we have maintained these services at a minimal level by funding six man months of staff time from our general fund appropriation and otherwise supporting the climatological staff by work on weather and climate applied problem contracts. As indicated in the materials given the committee, both last session and this, we cannot meet informational demands in this manner any longer due to the increase in information requests and the time necessary to keep data summaries current for some 200 weather stations throughout the State. In addition this year the prospect of climate and atmospheric problem contracts appears rather grim, to say the least, so we cannot rely on this source of funds.

As I see it without the passage of HB 196 we will have to do one the following:

- a) Cut staff and have files available to users only two days each week; or
- b) Charge a minimum fee of \$50.00 per information request for any time less than one hour and an additional \$50.00 for each part of further hours in order to defray the costs of personnel services and files maintenance; or
- c) Some combination of a) and b) above; or
- d) Shut down entirely and return the files to the National Weather Service, National Climatic Center, Asheville, North Carolina.

UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA

President Kerttula  
Page 2  
April 28, 1981

It seems ludicrous to have to do this at a time when these files (the only historic climate/weather data in Alaska) are being increasingly demanded by contractors, lawyers, police, insurance companies, state agencies, etc. for purposes ranging from hydro project and agricultural developments to school building design and construction and court cases. Nevertheless, something along these lines will have to take place and I cannot accept the responsibility for the impacts and effects such cutbacks will have upon activities throughout the state.

I urge you to please expedite the passage of this legislation.

Sincerely,



David M. Hickok  
Director

DMH/pp

cc: all Alaska Senators  
all Alaska Representatives  
Keith Speckling, Office of the Governor  
President Jay Barton, University of Alaska