

Legislative Update



August 15, 2008



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For immediate release:

Hello-

The Special Session on Energy ended on Thursday, August 7th. The Legislature was given an opportunity to assist all Alaskans with today's high cost of energy and ensure that folks stay warm this coming winter. I won't say that we completely failed, but I will say that I am disappointed. The Senate worked diligently on putting together a short-term (2 year) energy package that would have addressed Alaska's diverse energy usages; from some region's heavy reliance on diesel fuels to homes heated through electricity or natural gas. Regrettably, the House Majority members disagreed with our package. The final compromise is listed below. It is more than likely that the debate on energy will continue and will probably be the main focus of the next regular Legislative session.

More energy news, I have been appointed to the Renewable Energy Advisory Committee. Our first meeting is scheduled for August 22nd. I have been informed by the Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) that they plan on issuing a request for applications for renewable energy projects within the next month. If you recall, the Legislature appropriated \$50 million for this program last session and just appropriated another \$50 million this Special Session, for a new total of \$100 million for Renewable Energy Grants. I will be sending out further information on this application process as soon as I can.

As we are approaching the end of summer, I hope that the fishing season has been good to you and wish you luck for the hunting season.

Lyman

Senate Bill 4002: Energy Assistance

Power Cost Equalization (PCE)

- Maintained the floor .1283
- Increased the ceiling cap (.525) to \$1.00 (PCE pays amount from the floor of .1283 to the ceiling of \$1.00. Anything below the floor amount and above the ceiling amount, the consumer pays)
- Retained 500kWH per month
- 1-Year; Reverts to current program June 30, 2009

Bulk Fuel Loan Program

- Expanded loan maximum for the Bulk Fuel Revolving Loan Program (\$500,000) to \$750,000
- Expanded loan maximum for the Bulk Fuel Bridge Loan Program (\$500,000) to \$750,000
- Changed the repayment schedule (9-months) to 1-year

Individual Benefit

- Approved \$1200 individual resource rebate payment
- Via/PFD program; amount will be added to annual fall amount (possible 2008 PFD \$2,000, add \$1200 resource rebate; your total check amount would be \$3,200 per person. **Don't forget that this is taxable**)
- Provides for 376 Veterans that do not apply for annual PFD
- Includes hold harmless provisions, for individuals on Soc. Sec. or other programs so that they do not lose benefits
- One time payment

Suspension of the Motor Fuel Tax

- 1-Year suspension to all state fuel tax; includes .08 per gallon on gasoline and diesel fuel and .05 per gallon for motor/fishing vessels and airplanes

House Bill 4001: Appropriations/AGIA/Energy Assistance

- ✓ \$23,600,000 fully fund PCE 1-yr program expansion for FY2009
- ✓ \$746,500,000 fund 1-time Energy Relief payment and hold-harmless provision
- ✓ \$5,000,000 Bulk Fuel Revolving Loan Program Fund capitalization
- ✓ \$5,300,000 Bulk Fuel Bridge Loan Program Fund capitalization
- ✓ \$20,000,000 AEA Loan to AVEC for bulk fuel purchase
- ✓ \$30,000,000 AGIA reimbursement fund (Capitalization of fund; license/bill allows for up to \$500 million)
- ✓ \$60,000,000 additional funding to AHFC: Home Energy and Weatherization Program (funded \$300 million last session; home rebate program proven extremely popular)
- ✓ \$50,000,000 additional funding to the Renewable Energy Grant Fund
- ✓ \$100,000 to pay Municipalities for the Aviation fuel tax suspension
- ✓ \$5,500,000 Gas Pipeline implementation

The U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) Tribal Energy Program is requesting information from interested parties on accelerating renewable energy deployment in Alaska Native Villages. All interested parties are welcome to provide ideas and input to the questions identified in the RFI or provide other suggestions or comments.

For a copy of the RFI, see

<http://e-center.doe.gov/iips/faopor.nsf/UNID/E42536E866DC069185257494007>

92A81/\$file/GO38008_-_RFI_AlaskaFinal.pdf. Or access

<http://e-center.doe.gov/iips/faopor.nsf/a62beb2f6e6159ac852566c60075270a>

/e42536e866dc06918525749400792a81?OpenDocument, and scroll to the bottom of the page for a link to the actual document.

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION:

This is a Request for Information (RFI) and not a Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA); therefore, DOE is not accepting applications and is instead seeking information from all parties interested in transforming the energy supply in rural/remote Alaska from fossil fuel-based to indigenous renewable energy resources to meet the heat, power, and transportation needs of Alaska Native villages.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this RFI is solely for consideration in determining the most beneficial and efficient way for DOE to assist in accelerating the deployment of renewable energy in Alaska Native Villages to meet their heat, power, and transportation needs. .

SUBMITTING RESPONSES:

Please send your response (one attachment only) via email, with the title, "RFI Response." Your responses should be submitted in Microsoft Word or PDF as an email attachment to tribal@go.doe.gov. Responses are requested no later than 8:00 PM Eastern Daylight Time on August 31, 2008. Please include as part of your response, contact name(s), phone number(s), email addresses, organization name, address, and type of business or institution.