

Howard Pollock Asks for State Legislation to Fund Housing

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

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Washington, D. C. 20515
October 31, 1967

The Honorable Walter J. Hickel
Governor, State of Alaska
Pouch A - State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801

My dear Wally:

As you know, we have recently had the great disappointment of having the Conference Committee of the Senate and House on Independent Offices and Housing and Urban Development delete the proposal for the appropriation of \$1,000,000 for Alaska Native Housing. Everyone had anticipated that the House members would recede from their position and join the Senate members in appropriating the \$1,000,000; but instead, to our surprise and great disappointment, the opposite happened, i.e., the Senate members unanimously receded from their position and concurred with the House Conference Committee members that no money should be appropriated for the Alaska Native Housing this year. I cannot recall when I have had greater disappointment.

Nevertheless, two things come to my mind which might yet salvage this program. I am simply not willing to let it die. The first would be that you might urge the Legislature to appropriate \$1,000,000 to begin the program pending the appropriation of funds by the United States Congress.

Secondly, I would suggest that each village mayor and chief address a letter to the President of the United States earnestly requesting that funds be included in the federal budget now in preparation for the next fiscal year. It is my understanding that the Alaska State Housing Authority intended to request \$2,000,000 next year if this first appropriation had been approved. I believe the amount that should be in the next federal budget now is \$3,000,000 to make up for the time lost. Copies of these letters should be addressed to Secretary Robert Weaver, of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

I think we must do everything to make this dream of improved remote housing become a reality. Time has been

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lost, but not the program. Strong action on the part of all, I am convinced, will produce results from Congress next year.

I would appreciate your comments on these suggestions.

Warm personal regards.

Cordially,

HOWARD W. POLLOCK
The Congressman for Alaska