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# Air Carriers May Continue To Haul Fuel

Alaska air carriers may continue transport of fuel to bush villages under the temporary stay granted by the U.S. District Court, the Alaska State Energy Office said in a statement today.

The Attorney General's Office, under the direction of Governor Jay Hammond, is working toward a stay allowing uninterrupted fuel delivery to rural Alaska that will continue until the appeal is heard.

The State of Alaska will intervene in the case, presenting affidavits supporting the state's position of continuance of air transport of fuel, ammunition, and related items.

The stay was granted after quick action by Alaska International Air when Alaska received the word July 3, that waivers which allowed Alaskan air carriers to deliver fuel were invalid.

The sudden decision came as a shock to rural Alaska and those concerned with their needs.

"This action from the District Court in D.C. is totally reprehensible to the best interests of Alaska", Hammond has said. "And the decision was made, not upon the activities of Alaskan air carriers, but upon accidents in urban states that do not have our unique requirements."

The Attorney General's Office has filed for intervention and a stay pending appeal on behalf of the state. Affidavits were drawn up on short notice this past weekend by Sam Kito, President of AFN, Major General C.F. Necrason, Adjutant General, Col. Edward Newbury, Director of Alaska Disaster Office, Joan Ray, Energy Administrator for the Alaska Energy Office, Pat Ryan,

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Director of Aviation, and Harry Shawback, Assistant Commissioner of Department of Public Works.

Other supportive information was provided by RurAL CAP, Community and Regional Affairs, and other Native organizations.

Their affidavits are now in Washington, D.C. as support for the stay pending appeal and final word on this action may be received soon after the court hears them this Thursday.

"It is vitally important to rural Alaskans and our air carriers that this air transport be continued. Under this court decision most villages would not be able to receive their essential fuel supply

because of federal law imposed on our unique and isolated situation in Alaska," McConkey, Director of the Alaska Energy Office said.

"This action would even refuse the delivery of ammunition to villages, who are dependent on it for subsistence hunting. Again, Alaska is judged on the mistakes of the urban states, and it is our intent to make our voice heard in defense of rural Alaska."

The State of Alaska will act as intervenor with Alaska International Air, Inc. Alaska Air Carriers, representing the private small air carriers, is also preparing statements and petition to intervene.