

Invalidation Of Waivers Jeopardize Ak

WASHINGTON — Deliveries of fuel oil and essential materials to rural Alaska communities and pipeline camps will be seriously jeopardized if a federal court ruling on Federal Aviation Administration waivers is upheld.

Sen. Mike Gravel, D-Alaska, Tuesday urged FAA to "be aggressive on behalf of the people of Alaska" in pressing an appeal of the decision by the Federal District Court here invalidating waivers granted by FAA to air carriers to transport hazardous material. A stay of the ruling has been granted pending an appeal.

Gravel said the "many Alaska communities, not accessible by ground or water transportation, have to rely on air deliveries of their fuel oil and other necessities classified as hazardous material."

He wrote to the FAA Administrator James E. Dow urging that it make a complete and vigorous presentation to the Cour of Appeals to assure that the unique interests of Alaska are recognized and protected.

The Alaska lawmaker pointed out that the ruling "has the potential for not only jeopardizing construction of the Trans Alaska pipeline, but it also means an end to fuel deliveries for outlying regions of Alaska."