
Bulk Storage Facilities Bill

A bill which would establish a low-interest revolving loan fund for the purchase of bulk storage facilities and fuel product purchase has been introduced in the State Senate.

The bill (SB 392) was sponsored by Sen. Frank Ferguson of Kotzebue, Sen. John Sackett of Galena, and Senate President Chancy Croft of Anchorage.

"We're excited about this bill," stated RurAL CAP Director Phil Smith. "Beginning with a conference last fall, we have become increasingly aware of the need for this approach to the problem. Our own small energy program has demonstrated that need even more urgently."

"Our Board, and at least three regional boards have passed resolutions supporting the revolving fund. Now, we might get some place with it."

Details of the bill were worked out through a series of meetings between the Governor's Office and Mary Stachelrodt, RurAL CAP's Energy Coordinator.

"I think we've got at least the beginning of a good response to the problem," Stachelrodt commented. "We're looking forward to hearings by the Senate Affairs Committee." (Sen. Ferguson is chairman of the committee).

As submitted, the bill provides for a community to submit a request for a loan to the Alaska Energy Office. After negotiation and approval, the Energy Office would submit a "Certificate of Need" to the Department of Commerce which would issue the check.

Repayment of the loan would be directly to the Department of Commerce.