



Hammond signs

Governor Jay Hammond last week signed a bill appropriating an additional \$37,500 to the Rural Capital Improvements Program (RCIP), aimed at writing economic development plans for Interior villages.

The RCIP is a program of the Town and Village Association for Development, Inc., structured in several phases. The first phase involved identifying the economic needs and desires of the 44 villages of the Doyon-Tanana Chiefs Conference region. The second phase involves actually writing development plans based upon identified community needs. The program is specifically designed to avoid the construction of public works and facilities in rural Alaska without input from the people who would allegedly profit from them. Traditionally, benevolent public agencies have squandered vast sums on facilities, such as laundromats, roads, community halls, houses and others, without any regard for the specifications most suitable to the lifestyle, ability to pay for and willingness and ability to maintain them of local residents.

The appropriation will permit the RCIP to move into this second phase of plan writing. Pictured above with Gov. Hammond are Rep. Billy Akers of Chuloonawick and Hammond aide Keith Specking.