

Some things we favor

Notwithstanding our frustration with policies of the House and Senate majorities, Republicans are associated with several proposals which we feel have merit.

Chief among these is HB 192, a rural housing bill introduced by Rep. Richard Foster (D-Nome). The bill, which has passed the House, would give rural housing authorities the ability to process and refinance loans locally, instead of having to go through Anchorage. We urge the Senate to follow suit, and the governor to sign, this important bill.

Other measures we support include: SB 160, which exempts family-owned businesses from paying into the unemployment insurance pool when their employed children who are full time students cannot participate in the benefits; HJR 62, introduced by Rep. Bill Williams, urging the federal government to buy surplus 1995 canned pink salmon; SB 123, which revamps the state student loan program; HB 212, to streamline the process for making small timber sales available to the public; SB 69, to streamline reporting procedures for hazardous substances and SB 190, restricting the sale of Alaskan land in auctions to non-residents.