

CETA exemption will benefit Alaska

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA) Re-

authorization Bill, passed recently by the U.S. Senate, includes an amendment offered by Senator Ted Stevens to exempt the State of Alaska from the limitations imposed upon the wages for public service employees paid under this act.

CETA, a program which provides training, employment and other services for unemployed persons, has a maximum wage limitation of \$10,000-to-\$12,000, which Stevens said is unreasonably low for Alaska.

The Alaska Senator said that an unemployed person in Alaska could make more on welfare than by going to work as a CETA employee. "However, at the same time the CETA pro-

gram is extremely important to our state which has the highest unemployment rate of any state," Stevens said.

He said Alaska must have relief from the wage limitation provision to enable the state and local government employers to create jobs "which will lead to unsubsidized employment."

He said his amendment does not provide additional money for Alaska, but "provides greater flexibility in determining CETA wages given Alaska's tremendously high wage structure and given the need to comply with the intent of CETA."

He added that the CETA program has been very successful in Alaska.