



Legislative Update From Representative Bryce Edgmon



Volume IV, Issue 6

Day 39, 51 to Go

February 26th, 2010

Operating Budget Building Begins

Throughout the week House Finance Subcommittees have been “closing out” their work forming budget recommendations for the full Finance Committee. The committee then uses these reports in drafting a Committee Substitute to HB 300, the Governor’s operating budget bill.

We’re expecting that draft CS to be ready Monday, and public testimony on the bill will also begin. Testimony for communities who will need to phone in using “offnets” is scheduled for Tuesday from 2:45 to 3:45 p.m. Testimony from the Dillingham LIO is scheduled for Wednesday from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m.



A delegation from Akutan was in Juneau this week. From Left to Right: Program manager for the city Ray Mann, City Administrator Hermann Scanlan, Akutan Mayor Joe Bereskin, and lobbyist for the city Mark Hickey.

Ice Makers Added to Salmon Development Tax Credit Bill

On Tuesday in the Fisheries Committee we had our second hearing on HB 344—a bill to extend the Salmon Product Development Tax Credit until 2015. Since it was first enacted in 2003 this tax credit has been very effective in encouraging salmon processors to invest in equip-

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

ment to develop a wide variety of value-added products. The results have helped raise both the value and quality of salmon harvested all over the state.

In the Fisheries Committee we amended the bill to add ice-making equipment to the list of investments that qualify for the tax credit. Most value-added processes start with high-quality catch. Availability of ice is essential for increasing the proportion of Number 1 grade fish in the harvest. In turn, a significantly larger quantity of quality salmon will be available to processors and result in overall increases in higher-value processing .

At the conclusion of Tuesday's meeting the Fisheries Committee moved HB 344, which is sponsored by Rep. Bill Thomas of Haines, to the House Finance Committee.



This week Dillingham High School teacher Peter Johnson, center, participated in Educational Resource Center workshops with (l to r) students Tiana Peterson, Billy Noonkesser, and Kelly Evans.

Energy Efficiency Revolving Loan Fund Bill on the Move

The House Energy Committee considered and moved HB 296 from committee on Thursday. This bill allows the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation to use \$18 million of federal stimulus money to leverage up to \$250 million in bonds to fund an energy efficiency revolving loan fund.

This fund would be available to make loans to municipalities, subdivisions of municipalities, regional educational attendance areas, and the state itself for the purpose of financing energy efficiency improvements to buildings owned by those entities. The bill will next be considered in the House Finance Committee.

Get Your PFD Applications In!

DEADLINE IS MARCH 31st!

Apply online at <http://www.pfd.state.ak.us/index.aspx>



In Juneau with the UAF social workers cohort, Krista Williams, left, from King Salmon, and Tina King, center, from Dillingham are both studying toward degrees. Krista is now less than three months away from earning her Bachelors in Social Work, and Tina is nearing the finish line as well.

Keep in Contact with Us

Write to:
Rep. Bryce Edgmon
Capitol Building Rm. 416
Juneau, AK 99801

Phone: 907-465-4451
Toll Free: 1-800-898-4451
Fax: 907-465-3445
Email: Rep.Bryce.Edgmon@legis.state.ak.us
Adam.Berg@legis.state.ak.us
Tim.Clark@legis.state.ak.us
Keri.Smith@legis.state.ak.us