

Congress Needs to Hear From Us

Rural Alaska is struggling with an incredible burden: high energy costs.

In the Lower 48, Americans are feeling similar pain in the higher cost of their gasoline. But in rural Alaska, we are hit four times: through our electric bill, through our heating bill, through the gasoline we need for our commercial and subsistence activities, and through the skyrocketing cost of air and barge transportation to bring in our necessities and to link us to medical and other services.

In many of our communities, basic energy needs are eating up 40 percent or more of disposable income in thousands of households. That compares with 10 percent or less in urban Alaska and 5 percent to 6 percent in the Lower 48.

We must let our national leaders know about the incredible hardships we are suffering in our villages. They must understand that, in order to serve their Alaskan constituents, reducing the cost of energy must be a top priority. Instead, there are numerous proposals being considered in Washington, D.C., that would raise, not lower, the cost of petroleum fuels by placing a carbon tax on fuels, or by assessing other penalties designed to reduce the consumption of oil.

Rural Alaska does not have many options that can be implemented in less than a decade—especially not options that will make a meaningful reduction in oil consumption. In the meantime, we must be able to survive and retain our unique and precious heritage.

Please contact our congressional delegation and tell them how your life is being affected by high energy costs. They need to hear from every one of us. They need to help us make it through these difficult times.

You can make a difference. Contact Ted, Lisa and Don today.

Until next time,



Meera Kohler
President and CEO



Meera Kohler, President & CEO

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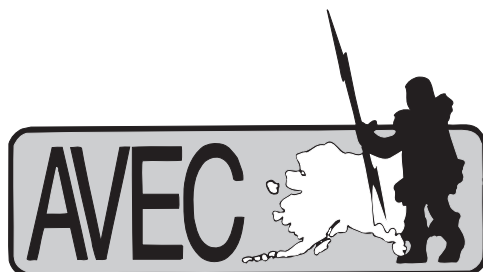
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