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**Communities Served**

- |                |                 |
|----------------|-----------------|
| Alakanuk       | Nightmute       |
| Ambler         | Noatak          |
| Andreafsky     | Noorvik         |
| Anvik          | Nulato          |
| Brevig Mission | Nunapitchuk     |
| Chevak         | Old Harbor      |
| Eek            | Pilot Station   |
| Elim           | Pitkas Point    |
| Emmonak        | Quinhagak       |
| Gambell        | Russian Mission |
| Goodnews Bay   | St. Mary's      |
| Grayling       | St. Michael     |
| Holy Cross     | Savoonga        |
| Hooper Bay     | Scammon Bay     |
| Huslia         | Selawik         |
| Kaltag         | Shageluk        |
| Kasigluk       | Shaktoolik      |
| Kiana          | Shishmaref      |
| Kivalina       | Shungnak        |
| Kotlik         | Stebbins        |
| Koyuk          | Teller          |
| Lower Kalskag  | Togiak          |
| Marshall       | Toksook Bay     |
| Mekoryuk       | Tununak         |
| Minto          | Upper Kalskag   |
| Mt. Village    | Wales           |
| New Stuyahok   |                 |



**Alaska Village Electric  
Cooperative, Inc.**  
4831 Eagle Street  
Anchorage, AK 99503  
(907) 561-1818  
(800) 478-1818

AK-105

## Stand Up and Be Counted!

Rural Alaskan residents are grappling with the highest energy costs in the nation—by a wide margin.

Rural Alaska is also witnessing firsthand the impacts of climate change.

The solution is not to make energy costs even higher, thereby forcing our remote community members to make impossible choices between heating their homes, feeding their families and, perhaps, abandoning their unaffordable rural way of life.

In far distant places—where laws are made that impact every United States citizen—legislation is being proposed that would drive up the cost of fossil-fuel energy. Gasoline for boats and ATVs, diesel fuel for home heating and electricity generation, jet fuel for aviation—all would be targeted for higher taxation, which would inevitably result in dramatically higher costs for rural Alaskans.

The theory is that higher cost fuels would nudge the nation toward using fewer fossil fuels by replacing them with other options. But other options don't exist for rural Alaska! Yes, wind generation could potentially reduce diesel fuel use for generation in a third of our communities—but the remaining 70 percent to 80 percent of generation will cost so much more, that the positive impact of wind will, at best, simply keep the cost from rising as fast as it otherwise would. And where will the \$4 million-plus cost of each wind farm come from?

And what would our village residents do for air transportation, heating fuel and gasoline as their prices skyrocket with no alternatives in sight?

Let our senators know that they must keep rural Alaska in mind as they contemplate any version of climate change legislation.

This edition of Ruralite magazine contains two postcards—addressed to each of our senators—Lisa Murkowski and Mark Begich. Please tear them out, insert your name, address and signature and drop them in the mail. They will go to our national association, which will collect and deliver them to our senators.

Feel free to add a personal comment on the postcard. Let our senators know that our rural communities represent the very best of Alaska and they need to be assured that they will be allowed to continue to live the unique lifestyle that has been handed down through countless generations through thousands of years.

Sometimes, when it is thousands of miles away, Congress forgets about us. We need to remind legislators that what they do will affect us forever.

Until next time,

Meera Kohler  
President and CEO