

Alaska State Legislature

Juneau Delegation
Senator Kim Elton
Representative Beth Kerttula
Representative Andrea Doll



State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska
99801-1182

May 9, 2008

Governor Sarah Palin
PO Box 110001
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0001

Dear Governor Palin,

We are writing to request that you meet with us in person about the energy crisis affecting our home and neighbors, as well as our whole state. Today we received a letter from General Campbell, but it does not cover all our concerns and we feel it is still critical to discuss these issues with you personally.

The community of Juneau faces a steep increase in our electricity costs due to losing 1.5 miles of line and several transmission towers from our hydroelectric power plant at Snettisham. It has been estimated that our electricity costs will be increased by 500% for one month and 350% for two additional months.

The economic impact this will have on our residents, small businesses, and nonprofit organizations is huge. A small business that normally has a \$1,000 electric bill will have \$9,000 in additional costs that were not budgeted, and a household which normally has a \$100 electric bill during the spring months will have \$900 in additional costs. Very few businesses and households have the money available to fill that gap.

Our offices have been contacted by dozens of citizens and businesses who are deeply concerned about their ability to survive the increase. In addition, we are incredibly concerned about our local school district, which estimates its additional energy costs to be in the neighborhood of \$400,000, money we are sure everyone would rather see spent on textbooks and teachers.

While we have not seen these increases yet, the entire community is poised on the edge and we are readying ourselves for this hit. We know the impact will be devastating. We expect the three-month crisis will extract \$18-\$20 million from Juneau's economy in direct costs alone.

We are very aware of the energy crisis facing all of Alaska. We want to be part of the solution, and we think we have worthwhile ideas that will lead us forward. We hope you will meet with us so that together we can work to help not only Juneau, but our whole state.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Senator Kim Elton.

Senator Kim Elton
Senate District B

Handwritten signature of Representative Beth Kerttula.

Representative Beth Kerttula
House District 3

Handwritten signature of Representative Andrea Doll.

Representative Andrea Doll
House District 4

cc. Bruce Botelho, Mayor, City & Borough of Juneau
Kelly Huber, Office of the Governor
Mike Nizich, Office of the Governor
Maj. Gen. Craig Campbell, Department of Military & Veterans Affairs
Talis Colberg, Attorney General
Emil Notti, Department of Commerce, Community, & Economic Development