

# ALASKA LEGISLATURE

## *Representative Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins*

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Committees:  
State Affairs, Chair  
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### Sponsor Statement | HB 81 – More Energy Efficient Buildings Act

This bill gives nonprofit organizations and federally-recognized tribes the power to apply for loans from the Alaska Energy Efficiency Revolving Loan Fund. Because AEERLF is such an awful acronym, we call this bill the More Energy Efficient Buildings Act ("MEEBA").

The AEERLF was created by the Alaska Sustainable Energy Act in 2010, allowing the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation to review and authorize up to \$250 million in affordable loans for energy efficiency improvements to public entities — municipalities, school districts, and the University of Alaska. Only one loan has been closed since the program's creation in 2010, to the City of Galena for \$2.5 million.

Given our new and more austere fiscal climate in which legislative grants are going to be rare to nonexistent, many nonprofits are interested in the cost savings and self-sufficiency that loan fund can offer. Accessing loans from the program to invest in energy efficiency allows Alaskans to save money on energy costs, makes the state money in interest, creates jobs, and is an economic stimulator in places where other opportunities might be scarce. Recognizing these clear benefits, and the program's unused potential, HB 81 authorizes Alaska Housing to accept applications for energy efficiency loans from non-profits, including regional housing authorities, and federally recognized tribes.

HB 81 paves the way for more energy efficiency in Alaska. It creates a public benefit out of an existing resource to save energy and money for Alaskans.