COLD CLIMATE HOUSING RESEARCH CENTER

CCHRC

To: The Alaska Climate Impact Assessment Commission
From: The Cold Climate Housing Research Center
Date: December 8, 2006
Subject: CCHRC's Public Testimony
Attachments: 1) CCHRC's "*Recommended Research Goals and Methods on Civil Infrastructure Related to Housing in Alaska*"
2) A copy of the Denali Commission's recommendations to NSF

- Introduction to the Cold Climate Housing Research Center (CCHRC)
  - Ø CCHRC is an industry-based private, non-profit corporation which was conceived and created in 1999 by members of the Alaska State Home Builders Association representing more than 1,200 building industry firms and groups.
  - Ø Our mission is: *Promoting & advancing the development of healthy, durable & sustainable shelter for Alaskans & other circumpolar people through applied research*
  - Ø We opened our new Cold Climate Housing & Infrastructure Research & Testing Facility this September on land leased from the University on the southern portion of the UAF campus off of Geist Road and Fairbanks Street.
  - Ø You are invited to come by for a visit. Tours are regularly given by our partners in UAF's Cooperative Extension Service on Thursdays at 2:00, or by special arrangement (457-3454).

- CCHRC Recognizes that Global Warming is real and that prudent responses are required.
- The substance of CCHRC's testimony to this Commission is contained in the brief document entitled "Recommended Research Goals and Methods on Civil Infrastructure Related to Housing in Alaska."
  - Ø These recommendations are being provided in written form and are also available on our web site under the "what's new" section down toward the bottom.
  - Ø They were drafted for input into the Denali Commission's process of recommending revisions to the United States Arctic Research Plan last year. That document is also attached.
  - Ø Of the 12 Denali Commission recommendations, six were authored by the CCHRC:
    1. Develop foundation systems that will accommodate expansive soils or melting permafrost
    2. Develop standards for the use of frost-protected shallow foundations
    3. Develop more energy efficient, durable and healthy housing that uses 50% of the energy of older housing and maximizes the use of local materials and labor.
    4. Develop very efficient and safe potable water systems in rural communities.
    5. Develop village transportation, power production , and housing options that reduce the incidence of asthma and other upper respiratory disease
    6. Develop an Alaskan facility to conduct research and testing of building-related materials, equipment, products, systems and infrastructure – the CCHRC's Research & Testing Facility now exists.
  - Ø In addition, CCHRC's recommendations include:
    7. Develop locally appropriate energy sources including wind, wood, small-scale hydro and photo-voltaics.
    8. Develop integrated community infrastructure strategies that are sustainable.
    9. Develop new and sustainable options for wastewater treatment in rural communities.