

## Affordable Energy for the farmers of Alaska/DRAFT

Affordable energy to the farms would greatly contribute to Alaska's food security and viability of agriculture in the state.

The proposed natural gas distribution system in Fairbanks does not at this time include most farms.

We are asking for your support in securing funding for the extension and /or modification of the natural gas distribution system to reach Alaskan farms and greenhouses in surrounding areas of Fairbanks. Since it is now in the planning stage, it is a good time to modify. The change could include Eielson Ag, Two Rivers, and other farming areas.

The energy cost to farms with greenhouses, livestock barns or grain drying needs are some of the highest in the nation even though Alaska is one of the richest energy states in the country. Natural gas can reduce the costs by 50% and keep our air and water cleaner. This is a necessity to assure Alaska's food security needs.

Thank- you for your support,

FSWCD