

Sponsor Statement for CSHB 334

Approp: Grant To Arctic Power For ANWR

An Act making appropriations for a grant to Arctic Power to promote the opening of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge for oil and gas exploration and development; and providing for an effective date.

Released: January 22, 2002
Contact: Representative Eldon Mulder's office at (907) 465-2647

CSHB 334 appropriates \$1,100,000 to Arctic Power to use in its campaign to secure necessary support in the United States Senate to pass legislation opening ANWR to oil exploration. The energy bill will be considered early in this session so it is important that Arctic Power be active in its promotion of opening ANWR in January and February of this year.

HB 334 reappropriates \$700,000 in unused funds from the gas pipeline study authorized through the Legislative Budget and Audit Committee along with \$400,000 from the general fund. Included in the \$400,000 is \$100,000 for video project on the value of opening the arctic plain by the City of Kaktovik

With the growing fiscal gap in Alaska's state budget, and the long term decrease in state revenue from existing fields, it is imperative we develop additional new fields in the future. ANWR is an important part of our fiscal future.

This appropriation will help Alaska work effectively toward that goal.