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217 Second Street, Suite 200 • Juneau, Alaska 99801Tel (907) 586-1325 • Fax (907) 463-5480 • [www.akml.org](http://www.akml.org)

February 27, 2012

House Finance  
State Capitol Building  
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear House Finance Members;

The Alaska Municipal League is in full support of HB 250. The expiration of a program that has been so successful would be very destructive to the State of Alaska, as over 200 renewable energy projects throughout the State of Alaska have been granted funds. The economic boon to those communities has been tremendous, as diesel fuel is no longer affordable by most small communities.

The Alaska Municipal League has closely watched those communities that have been fortunate enough to be awarded funds through this program. The continuation of HB 250 and the \$50 million per year until 2018 is necessary if small municipalities are to remain viable communities in which to live and carry on business.

Thank you for your interest and dedication to this issue.

Sincerely,

Kathie Wasserman  
Executive Director

Kathy Morgan  
Box 342  
Tok, AK 99780-0342

March 8, 2012

Representative Bill Thomas  
120 4<sup>th</sup> Street, State Capitol, Room 501  
Juneau, AK 998011-1182

Re: HB 250

Dear Representative Thomas:

I strongly support House Bill 250, extending the renewable energy fund. This fund is critically important to the entire State of Alaska. We need that renewable energy fund to encourage renewable energy projects that can reduce our high cost of energy and help the State meet its renewable energy production goals.

My community of Tok has benefited from the program with the building of an efficient wood-fired boiler to heat the Tok School and eventually also power it electrically. Already the school is saving thousands of dollars per year in heating costs, using a carbon-neutral fuel that otherwise threatens our homes with wildfire—and produces less pollution than standard oil boilers. Extending the renewable energy grant fund so that other communities can enjoy similar benefits, using whatever appropriate resources are available in their local area, is the right thing to do.

Tok School's heating and electrical generation projects funded by the renewable energy fund prove that there are feasible renewable alternatives that reduce our dependence on petroleum fuels and in the long run save both State money and private money. In the case of Tok's projects, as an extra bonus, while the projects are saving money for the school they are providing new jobs that benefit the community's economy and reduce our air pollution levels.

To turn renewable resource potential into reality, we need funding for projects to prove the validity and reliability of alternate energy projects in the unique conditions that we face in our state, with the wide variation and extremes of climate and ecology and the challenges of transportation and technology in remote areas. Different areas of the state have different resources that call for different solutions. Thank you for sponsoring HB 250.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Kathy I. Morgan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kathy" being more prominent and the last name "Morgan" following in a similar style.

Kathy I. Morgan



Tok Community Umbrella Corporation  
Box 547  
Tok, AK 99780-0547



*MARCH 8, 2012*

Representative Bill Thomas  
120 4<sup>th</sup> Street, State Capitol, Room 501  
Juneau, AK 998011-1182

Re: HB 250

Dear Representative Thomas:

This letter is in support of House Bill 250, extending the renewable energy fund. This fund is critically important to the entire State of Alaska and is needed to encourage renewable energy projects that can reduce our high cost of energy and help the State meet its renewable energy production goals.

The cost of petroleum-based energy is high and increasing throughout the world, but particularly in Alaska. It has reached crisis proportion in some of the rural areas. There are feasible renewable alternatives that are carbon-neutral or add no carbon to the atmosphere, reduce our dependence of foreign fuels, in some cases make our homes safer, and in the long run save both State money and private money.

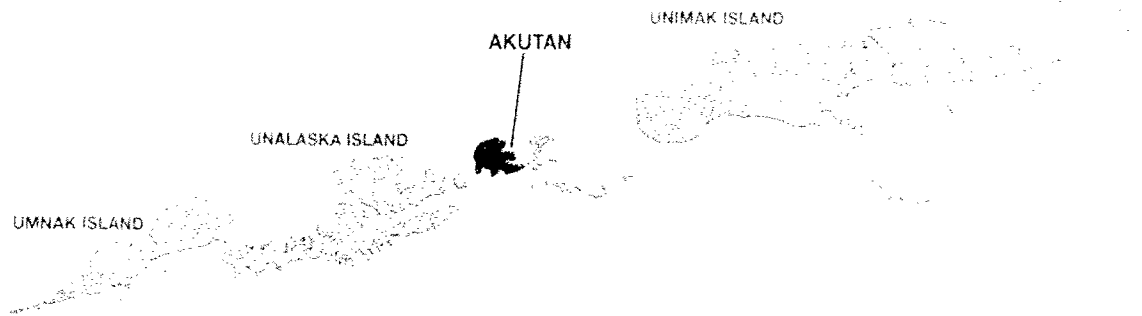
To turn renewable resource potential into reality, we need funding for projects to prove the validity and reliability of alternate energy projects in the unique conditions that we face in our state, with the wide variation and extremes of climate and ecology and the challenges of transportation and technology in remote areas. We also need funding to build projects that involve proven technology with an up-front capital cost that our smaller communities can't fund through local resources.

My community of Tok has benefited from the program with the building of an efficient wood-fired boiler to heat the Tok School and eventually also power it electrically. Already the school is saving thousands of dollars per year in heating costs, using a carbon-neutral fuel that otherwise threatens our homes with wildfire—and produces less pollution than standard oil boilers. Extending the renewable energy grant fund so that other communities can enjoy similar benefits is the right thing to do.

Sincerely,

Kathy I. Morgan, President

# AKUTAN



March 8, 2012

The Honorable Representative Bill Thomas  
Alaska State Capital  
Room 505  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Re: HB 250

Dear Representative Thomas:

The City of Akutan is writing to express its support for passage of House Bill No. 250, An Act Relating to the Renewable Energy Grant Fund. We support an extension of at least five years, and suggest making it a longer period.

As a result of the grant fund, the City of Akutan and Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) have jointly funded the exploration of a geothermal power resource located in the Hot Springs Bay Valley of Akutan Island, approximately five miles from the City and Native Village of Akutan. Our feasibility work is very promising as we work to bring the project to fruition. Continuation of the grant fund will be instrumental in helping communities to pursue a wide range of renewable energy projects.

Thank you for your leadership in sponsoring this bill.

Sincerely,

/s/

Mayor Joe Bereskin

cc: Hermann Scanlan, City Administrator  
Representative Bryce Edgmon



## **ALASKA PARTNERSHIP FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE ALASKA PARTNERSHIP FOR ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT BOARD OF DIRECTORS SUPPORTING HOUSE BILL NUMBER  
250; "AN ACT RELATING TO THE RENEWABLE ENERGY GRANT FUND AND  
RECCOMENDATION PROGRAM; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE  
DATE"**

**Resolution # 12-13**

Whereas; the Alaska Regional Development Organizations (ARDOR) was established by the Alaska Legislature in 1988; and

Whereas; the ARDOR's statutory mandate is to encourage the formation of regions development organizations to prepare and implement regional development strategies; and

Whereas; the ARDOR's represent a diverse network of public, private and economic development groups that drive local initiatives and advance economic diversification through partnerships with state and local governments; and

Whereas; the ARDOR's established the Alaska Partnership for Economic Development, (APED), in 2009, to advance economic development and address initiatives affecting development and to help develop a state-wide comprehensive strategic plan; and

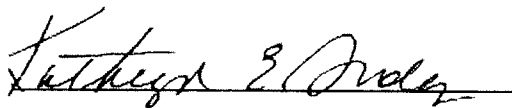
Whereas; the ARDOR/APED programs have established partnerships with more than 300 local, regional, private, municipal and public organizations to pool resources, decrease duplication and foster new businesses; and

Whereas; the APED now comes in support of the following legislation being considered by the Alaska State Legislature:

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED;** the Alaska Partnership for Economic Development supports House Bill 250; **"AN ACT RELATING TO THE RENEWABLE ENERGY GRANT FUND AND RECCOMENDATION PROGRAM; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE"**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this resolution be sent to the REPRESENTATIVES THOMAS, P. WILSON, MILLETT, the prime sponsors of SB250.

APPROVED THIS 24<sup>th</sup> DAY of FEBRUARY 2012.

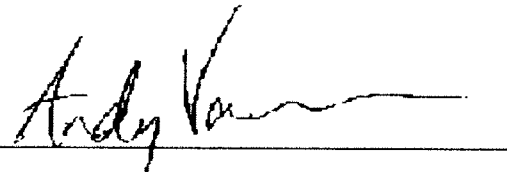


President

2/24/2012

Date

ATTEST:



Secretary

2/24/2012

Date



Alaska Power Association  
703 West Tudor Road, Suite 200  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503-6650  
907-561-6103  
Fax: 907-561-5547  
[www.alaskapower.org](http://www.alaskapower.org)

January 27, 2012

Representative Neal Foster, Co-Chairman, House Special Committee on Energy  
Representative Lance Pruitt, Co-Chairman, House Special Committee on Energy  
Representative Bob Lynn  
Representative Kurt Olson  
Representative Pete Petersen  
Representative Dan Saddler  
Representative Chris Tuck

Honorable Members of the House Special Committee on Energy:

Alaska Power Association respectfully requests your support for House Bill 250. Since its creation in 2008, the Alaska Renewable Energy Fund has provided \$80 million in funding for projects that utilize renewable energy resources in communities throughout the state.

Many electric utility members of our statewide trade association are recipients of this funding, and they have several success stories of how their renewable energy projects have significantly reduced reliance on diesel fuel.

The Alaska Renewable Energy Fund is one of the most successful policy mechanisms in the nation for stimulating rapid renewable energy development.

- By the end of 2011, 58 projects (Rounds I-IV) were completed.
- Eleven of the projects in operation at the end of 2011 produce power for Power Cost Equalization utilities.
- By the end of 2012, 120 projects are expected to have been completed.
- By the end of 2013, 184 projects are expected to have been completed and fuel displacement is expected to be approximately 3.4 million gallons equivalent per year.
- By the end of 2016, fuel displacement is anticipated to be 11.6 million gallons per year.

*(Source: Alaska Renewable Energy Fund Status Report, January 21, 2012)*

Thank you for your dedication to ensuring that all Alaskans have access to safe, reliable and affordable energy. We believe that continued funding of the Alaska Renewable Energy Fund will keep us moving in this direction.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Leland  
Executive Director

cc: Representative Bill Thomas



# ALASKA POWER ASSOCIATION

## R E S O L U T I O N

### A Resolution Urging Capital Funding in Support of Alaska Energy Policy (12-2)

In light of the ambitious and aggressive goals set forth in the Alaska Sustainable Energy Act (SB 220) and State Energy Policy (HB 306), the Alaska electric utility sector needs sources of capital for infrastructure and transmission.

Alaska Power Association urges the Alaska Legislature to fully support the following funding mechanisms:

- Extend the authorizing language for the Renewable Energy Grant Fund, which supports the intent of the legislature to provide funds annually for projects recommended by the Renewable Energy Fund Advisory Committee;
- Properly capitalize the Power Project Loan Fund, enabling meaningful funding for infrastructure projects; and
- Establish a State of Alaska-funded and administered revolving loan fund for the sustainable financing of infrastructure projects.

(Adopted Dec. 2010, updated Dec. 2011)

#### Association Members

Alaska Electric and Energy Co-op  
Alaska Electric Light & Power  
Alaska Power & Telephone  
Alaska Railroad Energy Authority JAA  
Alaska Village Electric Cooperative  
Anchorage Municipal Light & Power  
Aurora Energy  
Barrow Utilities & Electric Co-op  
Chugach Electric Association  
Copper Valley Electric Association  
Copper Valley Telephone Co-op  
Cordova Electric Cooperative  
Doyon Utilities  
City of Galena  
Golden Valley Electric Association  
Homer Electric Association  
INN Electric Cooperative  
Inside Passage Electric Co-op  
Kodiak Electric Association  
Kotzebue Electric Association  
Kwaan Electric Transmission  
Interle Cooperative  
Matanuska Electric Association  
McGrath Light and Power  
Metlakatla Power & Light  
Middle Kuskokwim Electric Co-op  
Naknek Electric Association  
Nome Joint Utility System  
North Slope Borough  
Nushagak Cooperative  
OTZ Telephone Cooperative  
City of Seward  
Southeast Alaska Power Agency  
Tanalian Electric Cooperative  
Tanana Power Company  
TDX Power  
Unalakleet Valley Electric Co-op  
Yakutat Power

#### Anchorage office

701 W. Fourth Street  
Suite 200  
Anchorage, Alaska  
99501  
Tel: 907.562.4300  
Fax: 907.562.4300

#### Juneau office

912A Broadway  
Building  
Juneau, Alaska 99801  
Tel: 907.586.1000  
Fax: 907.586.1000

alaska-power.org

MUNICIPAL  
LIGHT & POWER

January 27, 2012

faxed / mailed  
907-465-2652

The Honorable Bill Thomas  
House of Representatives  
Alaska State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

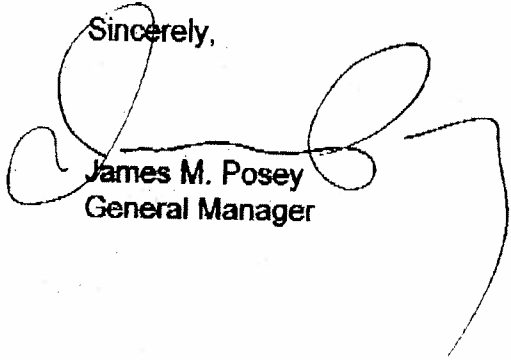
Subject: HB 250

Dear Representative Thomas:

*Mr. Chair*

- Municipal Light and Power Supports HB 250, the time extension of the Alaska Renewal Energy Grant Fund until 2023. Dozens of projects currently in the reconnaissance, feasibility and design stage will be put into limbo if the program is not extended this year.
- So far 21 projects have been constructed under the program, which have cumulatively displaced over \$7 million in fuel since 2009. By the end of 2016, AEA estimates that diesel fuel displacement from Fund projects will be approximately 11.6 million gallons per year.
- The program has so far leveraged over \$100 million federal and other dollars in matching funds for projects funded.

Sincerely,



James M. Posey  
General Manager

*Dated*  
JAN 30 2012  
*& mailed*



# Homer Electric Association, Inc.

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**Corporate Office**  
3977 Lake Street  
Homer, Alaska 99603-7680  
Phone (907) 235-8551  
FAX (907) 235-3313

**Central Peninsula Service Center**  
280 Airport Way  
Kenai, Alaska 99611-5280  
Phone (907) 283-5831  
FAX (907) 283-7122

January 30, 2012

Representative Bill Thomas, Jr.  
State Capitol, Room 505  
Juneau AK, 99801

Dear Representative Thomas:

Homer Electric Association, Inc. (HEA) strongly supports HB 250, extending the sunset clause of the renewable energy grant program to 2023. This bill will allow the state to continue to support a wide variety of renewable energy technologies that holds great promise for Alaska such as wind, hydroelectric, biomass, and geothermal.

HEA has been fortunate to receive two grants from the renewable energy program that have allowed us to proceed with field work and scoping for a hydroelectric project on the Kenai Peninsula. This renewable energy project would not be possible without the support of the renewable energy grant program.

On behalf of Homer Electric Association, thank you very much for your unwavering commitment to renewable energy.

Sincerely,

Bradley P. Janorschke  
General Manager

# Memo



To: Representative Bill Thomas  
via FAX, 907-465-2652

From: Karen Kelly, Executive Director

Cc: The House Energy Committee via e-mail:

- Representative Foster Co-Chair
- Representative Pruitt Co-Chair
- Representative Lynn
- Representative Olson
- Representative Saddler
- Representative Petersen
- Representative Tuck

Date: January 30, 2012

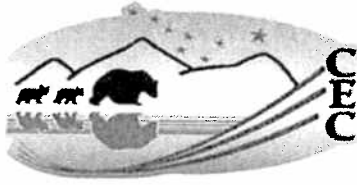
Re: Support for HB 250

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The Northern Alaska Environmental Center (NAEC) Board of Directors and staff extend our thanks and appreciation for your support and consideration of HB 250, "An Act relating to the renewable energy grant fund and recommendation program; and providing for an effective date"

The NAEC is also dedicated to supporting renewable energy projects that promote the health, wealth and sustainability of our Interior Alaskan communities, while maintaining the integrity of the wild places in which we live. Extending the Renewable Energy Grant Fund for another 10 years through HB 250 will help provide opportunities for renewable energy projects that we need to meet the economic demands of the present and future. The Interior's unique geography, remote rural communities and incredible diversity of abundant renewable energy resources provides an excellent opportunity to become a world leader in energy technology development. Renewable technologies like wind, geothermal, biomass, solar, tidal or small scale hydropower, have the potential to impart significant environmental, health and economic benefits to communities throughout Alaska.

We are honored to be among those in support of your ongoing efforts to encourage renewable energy. If there is anything the NAEC can do to further this legislation, please do not hesitate to contact us.



CORDOVA  
ELECTRIC  
COOPERATIVE, INC

P.O. Box 20, 705 Second Street, Cordova, Alaska 99574-0020 \* (907) 424-5555 \* Fax (907) 424-5527

January 31, 2012

The Honorable Bill Thomas, Neal Foster, Lance Pruitt, and  
House Special Energy Committee Members

RE: HB 250 Extension

Dear Representative Thomas and Committee,

Cordova Electric Cooperative (CEC) strongly supports HB 250 reauthorization to "Extend the Renewable Energy Grant Fund". CEC was a recipient of renewable energy grant funds for the Humpback Creek Hydroelectric Project, which was matched with Federal and CEC funds. Since the project went into operation on July 13, 2011 just over 6 months ago, it has produced over 1,500,000 kWh of energy or 110,000 gallons of diesel fuel savings despite a dry 2011 and low fall production. The project is designed to save 370,000 gallons of diesel a year average for at least 50 years.

The program benefits both rural and railbelt utilities, large and small. The application, review, and award process is straightforward, fair, and accountable. It has been touted as the most successful renewable energy grant incentive program in the world and I am inclined to agree.

This program is an excellent investment of State resources that will pay dividends for generations. While it would be nice to commit to this successful program for ten years, the State of Alaska has other priorities and a five year commitment is appropriate.

CEC urges reauthorization of this important bill and thanks you for your colleagues' efforts to support and cosponsor the original bill and this extension.

Sincerely,

Clay Koplin, CEO

January 31, 2012

Representative Bill Thomas  
State Capitol, Room 505  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Subject: Support for HB 250

Dear Representative Bill Thomas:

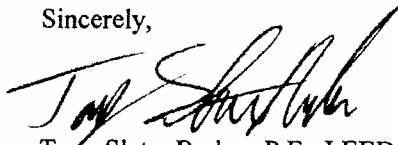
Myself and Coffman Engineers is in support of HB 250. The Alaska Renewable Energy Grant Fund allows alternative energy projects to be funded throughout the state. The communities benefit from this in many ways:

- By creating local jobs maintaining and operating equipment (wind turbines, wood fired boilers, etc)
- By creating local jobs to provide fuel that is locally created (wood/pellets)
- Reduce the impact of high fuel prices and fuel price volatility
- Reducing the overall cost of energy and increasing energy security
- Taking advantage of locally renewable energy sources
- Reduces environmental pollution

Additionally, so far 21 projects have been constructed under the program, which have cumulatively displaced over \$7 million in fuel since 2009. By the end of 2016, AEA estimates that diesel fuel displacement from Fund projects will be approximately *11.6 million gallons per year*. The program has so far leveraged over \$100 million federal and other dollars in matching funds for projects funded. Dozens of projects currently in the reconnaissance, feasibility and design stage will be put into limbo if the program is not extended this year.

Please take what steps you can so this program does not lapse. Thank you

Sincerely,



Tony SlatonBarker, P.E., LEED AP  
Program Manager, Alternative Energy and Sustainability  
Coffman Engineers

cc: House Energy Committee Members