



Northwest & Intermountain Power Producers Coalition

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January 27, 2015

The Honorable Tammie Wilson
State Capitol, Room 412
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Re: Alaska Competitive Energy Act of 2015 – HB No. 78

Dear Representative Wilson:

I write in my capacity as the Executive Director of the Northwest and Intermountain Power Producers Coalition (NIPPC). Our organization's diverse membership of independent power producers, electricity service suppliers, transmission developers and industrial customers are committed to facilitating truly competitive and transparent markets in the power sector.

We applaud your efforts to bring competition to Alaska. I know first hand the resistance HB 78 will face from the state-sanctioned monopoly electric companies. While utilities offer essential services, Federal law, applicable in the Lower 48, prevents utilities from holding monopoly control over the generation of electric power.

Here in the Lower 48, independent power producers (IPPs) generate 40% of our electric power. Privately held companies like NIPPC's members drive down costs, spur innovation and protect consumer interests. In one example, Idaho Power secures roughly 30% of its power supply at competitive wholesale prices from small, in-state generators who produce electricity from wood waste, small hydro dams, geothermal, wind and solar power.

Your farsighted legislation if enacted, will create opportunities for Alaskans to exercise their ingenuity in tapping indigenous resources, building local economies all while enhancing the reliability of your power system. Alaska should seize this opportunity to bring competition to your electric grid in a distinctly-Alaskan, self-reliant fashion.

As you're nearest neighbor, we wish you well and offer any support we can provide in the current legislative session.

Sincerely,

Robert D. Kahn, Ed.D.
Executive Director