



March 4, 2016

Dear Ms. Vazquez:

Cook Inlet Region, Inc. (CIRI) supports prompt passage of House Bill 363: "An Act extending the exemption from regulation by the Regulatory Commission of Alaska for certain facilities or plants generating energy from renewable energy resources." We believe that HB 363, a simple extension of the sunset date of an exemption that was passed by a prior legislature represents good, commonsense public policy that will facilitate and encourage private investment in projects in Alaska.

CIRI used the exemption embodied in the statute that has now sunsetted as a part of the development process for its successful Fire Island Wind project. The negotiated off-take agreement and the private risk dollars invested to develop Fire Island Wind have now provided long-term, flat-priced renewable wind power to Chugach Electric Association for more than 2 years now with 22 years to go. We believe this is a model of how private investment in this sector can be beneficial to the public without burdening the state government with direct financial support.

While we have already successfully utilized the exemption at issue for our project, we believe it is important to extend the sunset so that other independent project proponents can have regulatory certainty in their own respective project development activities.

We look forward to passage of HB 363 by this legislature.

Sincerely,

Ethan Schutt
Senior Vice President, land and energy development
Cook Inlet Region, Inc.