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April 13, 2016

Honorable Members of the House Finance Committee
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear House Finance Committee members:

Alaska Power Association (APA), our state's electric utility trade association, supports Senate Bill 196, which would protect funding for the Power Cost Equalization Program (PCE) while allowing appropriation of funds from the PCE Endowment for other valuable purposes.

APA members believe this legislation will allow the PCE program to continue providing a vital measure of relief to ratepayers in communities throughout our state where electric rates are the highest, while sharing benefits with the revenue sharing, the Renewable Energy Grant Fund as well as the PCE Endowment. This distribution of benefits is especially important in these difficult financial times.

We would also like to note that programs such as the Renewable Energy Grant Fund serve to help alleviate high electric energy costs by furthering development of affordable, green energy technologies. Many APA members have integrated hydroelectric power and wind into their systems through funding from the Renewable Energy Grant Fund.

Through SB 196, work could continue on renewable energy systems that will positively impact electric consumers for generations to come.

APA member utilities serve communities from Barrow to Unalaska, through the Interior and Southcentral and down the Inside Passage. We appreciate your decades-long leadership in assisting our home grown industry with providing affordable and reliable electric power to Alaskans. Your support of SB 196 continues these collaborative efforts, and we urge passage of this legislation.

Sincerely,

Crystal Enkvist
Executive Director