



Homer Electric Association, Inc.

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February 22, 2010

Representative Bob Lynn
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 104
Juneau, Alaska 99801

RE: Support for HB 336 – Permitting Electronic Voting for Cooperatives

Honorable Representative Lynn:

Homer Electric Association, Inc. (HEA) would like to join several other cooperatives in support of HB 336. The ability for cooperatives to use the Internet to improve member participation is a worthwhile goal.

HEA appreciates that the language in HB 336 is not mandatory, but rather provides the option to institute electronic voting should our members decide to move in that direction. Member participation is crucial to the success of our cooperative and it is possible that allowing electronic voting will improve the ability of our members to cast their vote during elections.

I urge support of this bill and its passage from your committee at the earliest time.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at any time.


Sincerely,

Bradley P. Janorschke
General Manager

GVEA

Golden Valley Electric Association

PO Box 71249, Fairbanks, AK 99707-1249 • (907) 452-1151 • www.gvea.com

Your Touchstone Energy[®] Cooperative 

February 23, 2010

The Honorable Bob Lynn
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 104
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Subject: Support for HB 336 – permitting electronic voting for cooperatives

Dear Representative Lynn:

Golden Valley Electric Association, Inc. supports House Bill 336. Golden Valley is in favor of AS 10.25 being changed to allow cooperatives the option of electronic voting in their co-op elections.

Currently, Golden Valley is in the process of conducting a membership bylaw election which will amend our bylaws to permit electronic voting. Allowing this option acknowledges that the Internet has become a universal platform for sharing information. It offers co-op members a choice in submitting their ballot. Electronic submission will also save on cooperative mailing & handling costs.

Using the Internet as a universal medium to conduct business does not preclude our traditional means of operating and communicating with our members, but offers an additional option. I look forward to your support of this bill and its passage from your committee. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Brian Newton
President and CEO



February 22, 2010

Representative Bob Lynn
State Capitol, Room 104
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Re: Support for HB 336 – Permitting Electronic Voting for Cooperatives

Honorable Representative Lynn,

Please convey to the House State Affairs Committee Alaska Village Electric Cooperative's strongest support for HB 336.

The language in HB 336 is not mandatory, but rather permissive, allowing cooperatives that have been so directed by their members, through their bylaws, to institute electronic voting on matters that may come before the membership.

In this modern age, where communication via the postal service has become almost archaic, it is only logical that the communication channels that are most used by most individuals should be permitted for the conduct of commerce. Indeed, it is now impossible to deal with some state agencies, such as APOC, by any other method, since it is simply not allowed!

I urge support of this bill and its passage from your committee at the earliest time.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Meera Kohler".

Meera Kohler
President and CEO

Sent Via Email: nancy_manly@legis.state.ak.us

February 22, 2010

Honorable Bob Lynn
Alaska State Capitol, Room #104
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

RE: HB 336 – Electronic Voting for Telephone Cooperatives

Dear Representative Lynn:

I'm writing to ask for your support on HB 336 "An Act relating to electronic voting procedures for electric and telephone cooperatives; and providing for an effective date".

As you know, the internet has changed forever the way we communicate and do business. Alaskans have more than embraced this new world and currently lead the country as the most Internet-connected state in America. Matanuska Telephone Association (MTA) is very proud of the work we have done, to bring the future to those we serve, by building a state-of-the-art telecommunications network capable of providing a high speed broadband connection to 98% of our member/owners.

Given this connectivity and the efficiency and effectiveness it can bring, MTA proactively presented to its membership in 2007 a proposed bylaw change to allow electronic voting and to send and receive documents electronically. In the balloting process, we explained that before implementation could take place, the Alaska Legislature would need to amend State cooperative law to allow for electronic voting. Our membership voted overwhelmingly to adopt the new bylaw allowing electronic voting, as determined by MTA's Board of Directors.

It goes without saying that electronic voting can be faster and more efficient for MTA and its members. It will also save considerable postage costs, make counting votes in our elections more efficient and help reduce wasted paper. But, more importantly, MTA believes this method of balloting promotes members ability to have every option available to them to participate in their cooperative elections.

On behalf of MTA's membership and our Board, I ask for your support of the House Bill 336 to allow electronic voting for our members.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Greg Berberich
Chief Executive Officer

February 22, 2010

Representative Bob Lynn, Chair
House State Affairs Committee
State Capitol, Room 104
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Representative Lynn:

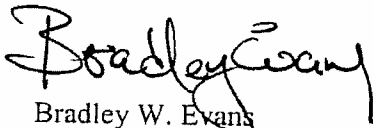
I am writing to express Chugach Electric Association's support for HB 336. Chugach is very much in favor of AS 10.25 being changed to allow cooperatives the option of electronic voting in their co-op elections.

As drafted, HB 336 makes electronic transmission of a ballot optional for those cooperatives whose members vote to change their bylaws to permit it. Chugach agrees making this voting method optional and member driven is the right approach. It is also important to note the bill allows each cooperative to determine voting procedures that are appropriate for their organization, thereby providing the flexibility for each co-op to decide how best to implement electronic voting. Once again, we think that is the right way to proceed. We understand that not all cooperatives might want to offer electronic voting, and those that do might want to limit the means of transmission in order to ensure a secure and efficient election process.

Electronic voting is a choice that we believe many members will appreciate. Chugach members already voted several years ago to change the bylaws to permit electronic voting when state law is changed.

Chugach urges legislative support of HB 336.

Sincerely,



Bradley W. Evans
Chief Executive Officer



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February 19, 2010

Representative Bob Lynn, Chair
House State Affairs Committee
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 104
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Re: Support for HB 336: Permitting Electronic Voting for Cooperatives

Dear Representative Lynn:

Alaska Power Association supports House Bill 336, electronic voting for electric and telephone cooperatives. Alaska Power Association is the statewide trade association for the electric utilities that supply power to more than a half-million Alaskans in communities from Barrow to Unalaska and down the Inside Passage.

Member representation through the exercise of voting rights is a cornerstone of the principles of cooperatives. Voting is permitted under the cooperative statute in person and by U.S. mail if the cooperative's bylaws allow it. The Internet has made it possible for secure and private activity to be conducted via electronic means.

Alaska Power Association urges and supports amendments to the Alaska Statutes that would allow cooperative members to exercise their voting rights via the Internet if their bylaws so allow.

We urge support of this bill and its passage from your committee at the earliest time.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Leland
Executive Director