



Alaska Chapter

March 26, 2012

Senator Lesil McGuire
Alaska State Senate
State Capitol, Room 125

RE: CSSSSB 25(L&C)

Dear Senator McGuire:

On behalf of the Associated Builders and Contractors of Alaska (ABC of Alaska), a construction trade organization that represents the merit shop construction industry in Alaska, I submit this letter of support for CSSSSB 25(L&C).

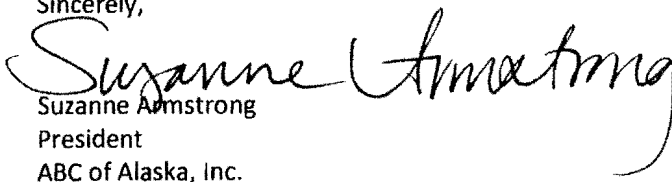
ABC of Alaska supports policy initiatives that will assist in lowering the long term cost of energy in Alaska communities. The high cost of energy is causing financial hardship for many Alaska families and has a profound impact on business in our state. It is imperative to the health of our overall economy to have access to reliable, affordable energy. Reducing the high cost of energy will foster economic development and growth for our state.

The passage of SB 25 will extend AIDEA's existing authority to finance, or facilitate the financing of energy infrastructure projects through Alaska. We think that this is a positive departure from the current path that the State of Alaska has been on in awarding grants to entities and local communities to fund energy infrastructure projects. By making credit available, communities and project sponsors assume a greater stake in the project's success or failure. As each loan is repaid, the capital becomes available to recycle into new loans, creating a financing mechanism to assist with Alaska's aging infrastructure, as well as provide for new energy projects aimed at lowering overall energy costs in our state.

The Alaska State Legislature has made energy policy a priority issue and has focused a significant amount of state resources on finding solutions to the problems that plague our communities, businesses, and families. ABC of Alaska believes that SB 25 will provide an additional tool for Alaska communities and energy project sponsors working towards affordable energy solutions.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,


Suzanne Armstrong
President
ABC of Alaska, Inc.