



March 17, 2014

Representative Charrise Millett
716 W. 4th Avenue
Anchorage, AK 99501-2133

Dear Representative Millett:

I would like to express my full support for HB 340, "An Act directing the Regulatory Commission of Alaska to provide a report to the legislature relating to electrical transmission in certain areas of the state and providing for an effective date".

Matanuska Electric Association is the state's oldest and second largest electric cooperative with almost 50,000 members and 60,000 accounts. Our service area includes over 4200 miles of power lines and extends from Eagle River up to the South Denali town site beyond the Chulitna River and from the Little Susitna River across to Sheep Mountain.

MEA is a part of Alaska's Railbelt grid and will become a vertically integrated utility when we begin producing our own power in 2015. Our service area sits at the heart of the Railbelt and our ability to achieve our vision 'To ensure our members have safe, reliable, sustainable and economical electricity' relies on a healthy and robust Railbelt grid and the cooperation of all the involved utilities. This is why in 2011 we became an active and founding member of the Alaska Railbelt Cooperative Transmission and Electric Company (ARCTEC).

While ARCTEC provides a platform for the Railbelt utilities to work together to address common opportunities and concerns, there are opportunities to do more to optimize the Railbelt system for the benefit of all the electric cooperatives and their members.

We firmly believe one single operator to manage and economically dispatch power on the Railbelt system is in the best interest of Alaskan utilities and ratepayers. Not only should it decrease the cost of providing power to our members, but it also provides an avenue to accomplish large capital projects which benefit the entire system.

The health and vitality of our state's core electric and transmission system will drive economic growth and improve the quality of life for the Alaskans we serve. I urge you to support HB 340 to allow further exploration of this concept and determine the best model to provide Alaskans with this economic benefit for our residents, businesses and communities.

Thank you for your consideration,

Evan J. Griffith
General Manager