



March 21, 2013

The Honorable Bill Stoltze, Co-Chair House Finance
The Honorable Alan Austerman, Co-Chair House Finance
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

SUBJECT: Support for HB4, Instate Gasline and SB23, LNG Trucking

Dear Committee Chairmen Stoltze & Austerman,

Rising energy costs are working against the long-term viability for hotel and lodging businesses. AkH&LA supports the Governor and Legislature in their efforts to advance cost-effective and timely projects to provide Alaskans and Alaskan businesses with a long-term reduction and stabilization of energy costs. The Alaska Hotel & Lodging Association supports current projects such as; an In-State Gas Line, the Susitna Hydro Project, the Southeast Hydro projects, a North Slope LNG Trucking project as proposed by Governor Parnell, and alternative energy projects around the state.

The Alaska Hotel & Lodging Association views HB 4 & SB 23 as a comprehensive energy package advancing projects proposing both short and long term energy cost reduction to thousands of Alaskans. AkH&LA appreciates the introduction of HB4 by Representative Hawker & Representative Chenault as well as the Governor's introduction of SB23. These bills not only recognize the problem but address it by moving forward with specific projects in an effort to solve the high cost of energy in Southcentral, Interior and Rural Alaska. The hotel and lodging Industry is a major consumer of energy and to that end, the situation in Southcentral and the current costs in Interior Alaska are untenable having the potential to jeopardize the economic viability of hotel businesses throughout the region.

Over 27,000 Alaskans are employed by the lodging and restaurant industries. These employees and the businesses that hire them are vital to the Alaskan economy. AkH&LA supports efforts by the Legislature to reduce the cost of energy to all Alaskans and Alaska's businesses. It is imperative that Alaska's economy not be constrained by our own inertia. Passage of these two vital pieces of legislation will move Alaska's economy forward. We urge you to take immediate action on these bills and pass them this legislative session.

Sincerely,

Gretchen Kenney
Executive Director
Alaska Hotel & Lodging Association

Cc:
Governor Parnell
Alaska Legislature

