



February 25, 2016

The Honorable Steve Thompson, Co-chair
The Honorable Mark Neuman, Co-chair
House Finance Committee
State Capital Building
Juneau, Alaska

RE: Support for HB118 – Municipal Energy Improvement Assessment Bonds

Dear Representatives Thompson and Neuman:

The Alaska State Home Building Association is a statewide trade association dedicated to maintaining high standards in the residential building industry. We are a member-driven organization that encourages good building practices that are sound and ethical, and we strive to promote public policy and legislation that helps to achieve these same goals.

Both our Board of Directors and our Legislative Committee have reviewed and discussed HB118, a bill establishing a municipal property assessed energy program. We view the property-assessed clean energy model as an innovative mechanism for financing energy efficiency and renewable energy improvements. The current form of the bill empowers a local government to establish an assessment on property to assist in the financing and development of energy efficiency in commercial buildings.

We have also reviewed the position of non-objection from the Alaska Banker's Association. This is based on the program requiring written consent from the lien holder. This is an important aspect within the bill that should remain intact.

Last, we would encourage the legislature to continue to support the development of energy efficiency standards in our state. Alaska is a leading state in our nation for recognizing and establishing some of the best technologies and techniques energy efficient building practices. Our organization and members are advocates for strengthening building standards and codes.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Andre Spinelli".

Andre Spinelli, President
Alaska State Home Building Association