

P.O. Box 240605 Douglas, AK 99824

907.586.1254 phone 907.463.3433 fax ffffoundation.org

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Denny DeWitt Executive Director Keith Comstock Juneau Hydropower, Inc. PO Box 22775 Juneau, AK 99802

Dear Mr. Comstock:

A major goal of First Things First Alaska Foundation (FTFAF) is to educate residents of Juneau and Southeast Alaska of opportunities to grow our economy. Juneau Hydro Power (JHP), with proposals to develop the Sweetheart Lake and District Heating projects, has described an intriguing opportunity to grow the renewable hydroelectric energy supply in Juneau as an independent power producer. Under that structure JHP would assume all risk associated with their business venture. We have the assurance from JHP that Juneau ratepayers would not be asked to underwrite project costs. Full funding and risk would be borne by investors.

FTFAF supports projects that offer the opportunity to expand our economy with positive economic development and job creation. JHP offers an opportunity to bring additional energy into the Juneau community as well as innovative use of that energy for highly efficient central heating. This offers the promise of reducing negative impacts to our environment and improvement to the economy. We find JHP proposals enticing and urge the company to further educate the community as well as FTFAF.

Private sector projects that (1) increase available energy and (2) provide well-paying jobs in both the short and long term are to be encouraged. We believe the Sweetheart Lake Hydropower Project and the Juneau District Heating Project have the potential to meet these criteria.

Sincerely,

Neil MacKinnon Board President

<u>First Things First Alaska Foundation</u> (FTFAF) is dedicated to preserving the economic viability and future of Alaska through education. There is a clear need to educate the public on the benefits of responsible economic development and natural resource management.