

Cook Inlet Energy, LLC
601 West 5th Avenue, Suite 310
Anchorage, Alaska 99516

March 30, 2015

Honorable Representatives Nageak & Talerico
Co-Chairs, Resources Committee
Honorable Senators Bishop & Micciche
Co-Chairs, Special Committee on Energy

RE: Letter of Support for Senate Bill 50 and House Bill 105

Dear Senators & Representatives,

Cook Inlet Energy, LLC (CIE) supports SB 50 and HB 105. As an independent producer of oil and gas in Cook Inlet and on the North Slope of Alaska, CIE considers the potential for increasing in-state natural gas markets as a critical component to our continued growth.

The proposed legislation will allow the Alaska Industrial and Export Authority (AIDEA) the flexibility to use existing financing tools to support the development of a larger natural gas market throughout Alaska. Since 2013, AIDEA has been tasked with increasing the availability and use of natural gas in the Interior of the state under the Interior Energy Project (IEP). Unfortunately, the IEP was limited to evaluating natural gas from the North Slope as the only source for reducing high energy costs in interior Alaska.

SB 50 and HB 105 remove the North Slope limitation and allows AIDEA to consider sources of gas from Cook Inlet. This change is significant to CIE due to the opportunity to compete for new markets for its natural gas. A healthy, competitive, and growing in-state natural gas market is needed for CIE and other Cook Inlet producers. Allowing AIDEA to utilize existing enabling funding on either the financing of new infrastructure or purchasing existing facilities, will facilitate the IEP in reaching its goal of providing lower cost energy to our fellow Alaskans. Facilities that are developed or expanded in South Central can be utilized to lower energy costs throughout the state. The proposed legislation, if passed will result in lower cost and cleaner energy to communities throughout Alaska.

Thank you for considering these public comments.

Respectfully,


David Hall
CEO