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February 25, 2022

Senator Josh Revak
Chairman, Senate Resources Committee
State Capitol Room 125
Juneau, AK 99801

Support for Senate Bill 202: Renewable Energy Grant Fund

Dear Senator Revak:

Alaska Power Association (APA) supports Senate Bill 202, and we urge its passage this year so electric utilities and their consumers may continue benefitting from the Renewable Energy Grant Fund (REF) for many years to come.

APA is the statewide trade association for electric utilities in Alaska. Our members provide power for more than a half-million Alaskans from Utqiagvik to Unalaska, through the Interior and Southcentral, and down the Inside Passage.

Many of APA's electric utility members have received crucial funding from the REF since its inception. These funds have supported the addition of renewable energy projects that have lowered reliance on diesel fuel, stabilized rates, and decreased the carbon footprint of electric generation.

According to the Alaska Energy Authority, there have been 244 REF grants totaling $275 million since the program's inception. Over 95 operating projects have been built using REF funds, saving more than 30 million gallons of diesel each year. The REF is an extremely valuable program that has proven itself as worthy of continued operation.

There are also numerous projects under consideration for future rounds of grant funding from the REF. These projects, as past projects have, will be chosen through a deliberative process run by the Alaska Energy Authority and reviewed by the Renewable Energy Fund Advisory Committee.

APA thanks you for filing this bill. By extending the sunset date of the program, electric utilities in Alaska will have certainty that the REF will be there as they continue innovating the power systems of the state.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Crystal Enkvist
Executive Director