



**CORDOVA
ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE, INC**

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February 4, 2011

Alaska State House of Representatives
House Labor and Commerce Committee
Representative Kurt Olsen, Chair

RE: House Bill 114, Opt-out Charitable Giving by Cooperatives

Dear Sirs,

Cordova Electric Cooperative supports adoption of HB 114. One of the core tenants of the Cooperative model is that of democratic membership control. As a private, non-profit corporation solely owned by the rate-paying members of the Cooperative, the members are financially vested as equity owners. Members of a Cooperative have the freedom to adopt charitable giving programs to benefit the sustainable development of their communities either by a direct vote to amend their bylaws, or by a vote of their elected board of directors to adopt a policy. The Laws of the State of Alaska should not intervene.

In the opt-out charitable giving programs, the members are free to participate or decline thus retaining their freedom of choice in the matter. I strongly encourage you to recommend this bill for adoption, recognizing that it allows Cooperatives the freedom to exercise their democratic membership control to adopt either opt-in or opt-out charitable giving programs should they choose to engage in charitable giving programs within their communities.

Sincerely,

Clay R. Koplin
CEO
Cordova Electric Cooperative