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To Whom It May Concern:

The Southern Southeast Alaska Homebuilders Association would like to pledge their support for an Alaskan Competitive Energy Act for the benefit of all private and commercial utility rate payers in the state.

For over two decades the number one priority of the Ketchikan Homebuilders Association has been to partner with the Alaska State Homebuilders Association to design and build the most energy efficient structures in the country. No one foresaw however, the significant increased cost in the price of oil and the impact it has had on both home heating and utility costs. As a result we have seen a large migration away from fossil fuel heating in favor of electrical heating technology.

The recent surge in electrical demand has placed a huge burden on public utilities, causing them to rely more heavily on diesel back-up generation during peak load periods thus driving up costs in the form of diesel fuel surcharges passed on to the public.

Due in part to cumbersome local and state government regulations, we have seen private, competitive development of several smaller energy projects stifled in past years that would have significantly lightened the load on our public utilities and eliminated the necessity for costly diesel back-up generation.

Southeast Alaska is rich in untapped renewable energy resources in the form of hydro, geothermal, wind, and tidal generation and the central and northern regions of the state are open to solar and gas generation as well.

Private development of our resources would remove the burden of further bond indebtedness from the shoulders of rate payers, provide competitive rates, streamline development, and bring more power on line to meet the growing demand all of which would encourage economic growth. Please support an Alaskan Competitive Energy Act which would produce these results.

Sincerely,



President
Southern Southeast Alaska Building Industry Association