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April 25, 2024

The Honorable Bill Wielechowski
The Honorable Forrest Dunbar
The Honorable Elvi Gray-Jackson
The Honorable Scott Kawasaki
Alaska State Senate
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senators Wielechowski, Dunbar, Gray-Jackson, and Kawasaki:

Subject: Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 152

Alaska Power Association (APA) respectfully submits the following comments for committee substitute for Senate Bill 152 (L&C) version R.

Thank you for working with the electric utilities that will fall under the provisions of this bill to craft legislation that achieves its goal while considering input from the operators of the Railbelt electric system. It is important that the energy policies advanced by the state do not have a negative impact on reliability or drive-up energy costs for Alaskans. As you know, less than a year ago, the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) identified energy policy as one of the five significant risks to reliability. While APA's member electric utilities throughout the state are working diligently to diversify their generation portfolios, the utilities are approaching diversification methodically in a manner that ensures reliability remains unchanged.

APA appreciates SB 152's emphasis on interconnection standards and the evaluation of nameplate capacity. These measures ensure that community energy facilities can be seamlessly integrated into the existing utility infrastructure, while considering the utility's load profile, the importance of public safety, and the impact on rates and reliability. The authority and duties of the commission, as outlined in Section 42.05.731, demonstrate a commitment to establishing protocols, modifying interconnection standards, and facilitating the creation and accessibility of community energy facilities. These measures will help ensure that the integration of community energy facilities does not compromise the safety and reliability of our electrical grid.

Thank you for your continued leadership on Alaska energy issues.

Sincerely,

Crystal Enkvist
Executive Director