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April 4, 2016

Representative Liz Vazquez  
Chair, House Special Committee on Energy  
State Capitol Room 432  
Juneau AK, 99801

**Juneau Hydropower support for HB 363 extension of exemption for small power producers**

Dear Chair Vazquez,

Juneau Hydropower is an independent power producer developing the Sweetheart Lake Hydroelectric Facility that will receive its Federal Energy Regulatory Commission License this year. Hydropower permitting and licensing can take on average 10 years, but we are happy to report that we will complete the task in under 6 years.

We were motivated that in 2010 Alaska declared an Energy Plan to have 50% renewables by 2025. Just as importantly, we were motivated that the Legislature began exempting small power producers from excessive State regulation. To date we have invested many millions of private Alaskan money to develop Alaska's renewable energy resources at our risk. Apparently, Alaska is the only state that requires small power producers be regulated despite federal law that exempts small power producers from state regulation. Alaska fixed this issue, in part, by exempting small power producer from State regulation with a sunset date of January 1, 2016. In order to allow for continued and future investments that now needs extending to 2025.

Your bill assists our State in attracting private investment and private expertise to develop renewable energy resources to lower the high cost of energy in Alaska. We fully support your bill to reduce the over reach and unnecessary regulatory and costly burdens placed on small renewable energy investors. Alaska is an expensive place to permit and license projects of any kind. It is wise with these fiscal times, that we reduce unnecessary regulation. Over regulation costs the RCA time and staff to process paperwork and costs the small power producer untold thousands of legal and regulatory expense while creating an energy development "barrier of entry" that discourages Alaskan entrepreneurs and private investment into Alaska's energy security.

We support your efforts to extend the sunset to 2025 to assist current and potential developers by providing the regulatory certainty necessary to develop long-term energy projects in Alaska. The House Bill 363 is simple, it merely extends the sunset of a wise exemption to over regulation. We appreciate your introduction and leadership to get this bill passed quickly.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Keith Comstock".  
D. Keith Comstock  
CEO and President