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March 24, 2025

The Honorable Will Stapp
Alaska House of Representatives
State Capitol Room 500
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Stapp,

Alaska Power Association (APA) supports House Bill 119, which would require an in-state natural gas pipeline constructed under AS 31.25.005(4) to include a spur line to the city of Fairbanks and the Fairbanks North Star Borough.

APA is the statewide trade association for electric utilities in Alaska. Our members provide power from Utqiagvik to Unalaska, throughout the Interior and Southcentral, and down the Inside Passage. Alaska's electric utilities serve some of the most remote communities under the harshest climatic conditions in the country.

Requiring a spur from the main natural gas pipeline to Fairbanks and the Interior region just makes sense. Not only is the pipeline planned to pass less than 40 miles from Fairbanks, but there are more than 100,000 Alaskans living in the Interior along with four critical military installations plus a variety of businesses and industry. The long-term, positive impacts on electric generation from direct access to natural gas would be a gamechanger in Interior Alaska.

APA member Golden Valley Electric Association is on record supporting House Bill 119, and we echo their public comments on the bill. The biggest beneficiaries of a gasline spur to Fairbanks and the Interior will be consumers and ratepayers for generations to come. Not only will access to North Slope natural gas in Interior Alaska lower the cost of electricity it will also lead to enhanced energy security in the region.

APA strongly urges the legislature to pass House Bill 119 this session so that a major population center of the state can also benefit from a future natural gas pipeline.

Thank you for your leadership on this issue

Sincerely,

Crystal Enkvist
Executive Director