

March 12, 2014

Representative Bill Stoltze
State Capitol Room 515
Juneau AK, 99801

Dear Chairman Stoltze:

Chugach Electric Association supports legislation to address metals theft. Thieves often target copper at utility facilities. Metals theft is a problem for utilities nationwide, and also in Alaska. For an electric utility, the theft of copper from our facilities is not only costly but dangerous as well.

In the summer of 2013, thieves cut the fence to gain access to Chugach's Daves Creek Substation near Cooper Landing. They then cut and removed copper ground wires that provide protection for both utility workers and members of the public. Repair and replacement cost Chugach members \$9,200, and led to an 80-minute outage for customers in Cooper Landing and Moose Pass.

Representatives of contractors, utilities and scrap dealers have worked together on legislation to address this problem. Chugach appreciate the House Finance Committee's attention to CS HB 305. We support its passage.

Sincerely,



Bradley W. Evans
Chief Executive Officer