

March 28, 2014

Senator Pete Kelly
Co-Chair, Senate Finance Committee
State Capitol Room 516
Juneau, AK 99801

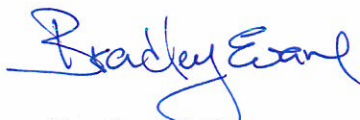
Dear Co-Chair Kelly:

Chugach Electric Association supports CSHB 305: 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 appreciates the Senate Finance Committee's attention to CSHB 305. We support its passage.

Sincerely,



Bradley W. Evans
Chief Executive Officer