



March 13, 2015
Senator Cathy Giessel
State Capitol Room 427
Juneau AK, 99801

Re: Support for SB 57, an act relating to state emission standards and the federal Clean Air Act

Dear Senator Giessel:

The Alaska Chamber supports Senate Bill 57 (SB 57), an act relating to the development of state emission standards in accordance with the federal Clean Air Act (CAA).

The Chamber is an organization dedicated to improving the business environment in Alaska. The Chamber represents hundreds of businesses from Ketchikan to Barrow that share a common goal: to make Alaska a viable and competitive place to do business. The Chamber supports efficient regulation, fiscal responsibility and efforts taken to improve or protect the business environment in Alaska.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) intends to issue a final rule under 111(d) of the CAA addressing performance standards to regulate emissions from power generators. The rule has the potential to increase the cost of power throughout Alaska, raising existing hurdles for business. As Alaska's Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) develops an implementation plan to comply with the new rule, it is essential that any new regulations ensure that Alaska's businesses and consumers are protected from the typically arduous and stifling directives issued from Washington, DC.

The Chamber supports affordable energy for Alaska's rural communities, and an overall reduction in the high cost of power across the state. SB 57 is written to guide DEC in its planning process, by establishing protections for Alaska's rate payers in statute. Further, the bill directs DEC to consider employment, economic development and the overall competitive position of our state while developing an implementation plan.

The Chamber supports environmental policies based on a sound scientific basis with grounding in real world applications, over the precautionary methods typically driven by the EPA. While we do not believe the proposed rule meets these standards, we nonetheless support the State's efforts to ensure that Federal directives are complied in a manner that protects Alaskan businesses and workers. On behalf of Alaska's business community, thank you for your efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Rachael Petro'.

Rachael Petro
President and CEO