



CITY OF FAIRBANKS

John Eberhart, Mayor

800 CUSHMAN STREET
FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99701-4615

OFFICE: 907-459-6793

FAX: 907-459-6787

mayor@ci.fairbanks.ak.us

March 11, 2015

Ms. Emily Ford
Legislative Coordinator
Alaska Energy Authority
813 West Northern Lights
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

Re: Senate Bill 56 and House Bill 118 – City of Fairbanks Support

Dear Ms. Ford:

I am writing to express the City of Fairbanks' support for the proposed legislation for PACE financing as detailed in Senate Bill 56 and House Bill 1118.

In the City of Fairbanks, energy efficiency is key to the financial viability of businesses, given our current high rates for heating and fuel costs. The proposed creation of a Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program to help Alaska businesses finance retrofits on their buildings to make them more energy efficient would be a boon to our local businesses. There are currently few state programs aimed at helping commercial buildings become more efficient and this legislation would create another tool to increase the energy efficiency of businesses.

PACE would give business owners the opportunity to borrow from their local tax assessment district, and then pay the loan back through an additional tax assessment on their property. The program would be revenue neutral for the municipality, and would allow the loan to be attached to the building, rather than the building's owner. PACE programs in other states provide important benefits including reduction of energy costs and enhancement of property values and economic stimulation and development.

This opportunity for local businesses in the Golden Heart community is appreciated, and I thank the Alaska Energy Authority for supporting this program. I also applaud Governor Walker for introducing this legislation to help the City of Fairbanks become more energy efficient, while also bringing operating costs into a more reasonable range of expenditure.

Please encourage your colleagues in the Senate and House of Representatives to support this legislation.

Yours sincerely,

Mayor John Eberhart

Cc: City Council