

Senator John Coghill
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska

January 26, 2017

Dear Senator Coghill:

On behalf of Renewable Energy Alaska Project (REAP), I am writing to support the PACE financing legislation contained in Senate Bill 39 and its companion, HB 80. As you know, REAP is a statewide non-profit coalition of over 80 electric utilities, independent power producers and developers, Alaska Native organizations, businesses and NGOs with the goal of increasing renewable energy development and promoting energy efficiency in Alaska.

REAP has been advocating for the creation of a Publicly Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program for several years to help Alaska businesses finance retrofits on their buildings to make them more energy efficient. 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 the state's building stock.

PACE would give business owners the opportunity to *voluntarily* 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 owner.

PACE programs in other states are already providing important benefits including reduction of energy costs, reduction of energy demand on local utilities, enhancement of property values and economic stimulation and development.

Thank you for introducing this important legislation to help Alaskans be more efficient, and keep energy dollars circulating in the state's economy.

Sincerely,



Chris Rose
Executive Director