



Tanana Chiefs Conference

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August 23rd 2017

Director William Bradford
Office of Indian Energy
1000 Independence Ave. SW
Washington D.C. 20585

Dear Director Bradford

Tanana Chiefs Conference is the nonprofit tribal health consortium representing 42 communities and 37 federally recognized tribes across Alaska's sub-arctic interior. We assist our communities with various programs aimed at increasing tribal sovereignty, tribal independence and economic development within our region. An important focus area for our tribes is the high cost of energy many of our villages pay for electricity. We're proud to say that the Dept of Energy Office of Indian Energy has been a tremendous help over the past 5 years in assisting us to stabilize the cost of energy across our region.

In 2013, Tanana Chiefs Conference led the development of the Interior Regional Energy Plan to identify energy priorities across the region. The expansion of the existing rail belt electrical grid to our villages in the Upper Tanana Subregion was identified as the fastest way to reduce energy costs in that area. The 5 federally recognized tribes that would be affected currently pay electric costs that are more than 300% above the national average.

Through recent partnerships with the Copper Valley Development Association and the Ahtna Intertribal Resource Commission we are requesting that the Office of Indian Energy assist our communities through the funding of a feasibility assessment for an expansion of the grid between Anchorage-Glenallen-Delta Junction-Tok. When built this transmission line will reduce energy costs for nearly 2% of the federally recognized tribes, open up tribal lands to renewable energy development and assist them with economic development.

This project represents a huge step toward one of the administration's infrastructure goals, a big win for the office of Indian Energy and most importantly a big win for the tribe's we serve. Tanana Chiefs Conference strongly encourages the office of Indian Energy to fund the feasibility study through an amendment to our existing inter-tribal award. Our organization has a proven track record of working with the Department of Energy and has successfully managed millions of dollars of federal funding to benefit our villages. This is an incredibly small investment that



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has the potential to yield huge benefits to our rural communities and help fulfill the mission statement of the Office of Indian Energy.

Ana Bassee',

Tanana Chiefs Conference

Victor Joseph,
President/Chief

Cc:

John Hughes, Sen. Murkowski's Office
Julie Kitka, Alaska Federation of Natives
Upper Tanana Subregion
Jamie Marunde, Doyon