



March 9, 2022

The Honorable Calvin Schrage, Chairman
House Energy
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 104
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: House Bill 301

Dear Chairman Schrage and Members of the Committee:

CIRI respectfully supports House Bill 301, an Act relating to the establishment of a renewable portfolio standard for regulated electric utilities. For too long Southcentral Alaska has relied on a single, high-priced source of fuel to generate electricity – natural gas from Cook Inlet. However, the region is also fortunate to have vast renewable resources. Stable energy prices and reduced carbon emissions can be achieved by balancing our dependency on natural gas with renewable energy. A robust renewable portfolio standard will stimulate investment in the State's population center, create jobs, and drive collaboration and innovation. The proposed legislation is a win-win for the economy and its citizens.

CIRI is one of 12 Alaska Native regional corporations and is owned by over 9,000 Alaska Native shareholders. CIRI has a diverse business portfolio that includes significant energy investments. In 2012, CIRI developed the first commercial scale independent power project in Alaska, Fire Island Wind, with the collaboration of nearly 100 local businesses. Located in Cook Inlet, Fire Island Wind delivers electricity to 6,500 homes and has eliminated 5 billion cubic feet of natural gas consumption since the project was commissioned. Additionally, CIRI has invested in over 500 megawatts of other renewable energy in the United States. CIRI's energy-related investments are geographically dispersed across the US and, as a result, CIRI has experience of operations within multiple markets where development was supported by renewable portfolio standards.

Sincerely,

Cook Inlet Region, Inc.

Suzanne Settle
Vice President, Energy, Land & Resources

Ryan Johnston

From: Ben May [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 8, 2022 10:32 AM
To: Rep. Calvin Schrage
Subject: To the members of the House Energy Committee

Hello Representative Schrage and members of the committee,

I am writing in support of HB301. This Renewable Portfolio Standard is a win-win for Alaskans. Renewables create jobs, create grid resilience, stabilize energy prices, and make us less susceptible to coercion from foreign powers and (un)natural disasters (ie Ukraine, and various oil spills). My business alone creates 12 full-time jobs and about 5 more jobs in supporting industries. My business is one of many, both on the railbelt and in rural Alaska. Solar provides power at a lower cost than utilities to residential customers, and at equal wholesale cost to utilities. In addition, this cost is stable over the lifetime of the project. Finally, it is Alaskan made power

I encourage you to expedite this excellent bill with bipartisan support.

Kind Regards,

Ben May
[REDACTED]

www.aksolarpower.com



From: [Kate and Steve](#)
To: [House Energy](#)
Subject: HB 301
Date: Wednesday, March 9, 2022 12:53:39 PM

Chair Schrage and Members of the Committee:

Please support HB 301 because 80% renewable is doable. And the best way forward in the railbelt.

I think you know all the reasons for passing HB 301 so I will briefly site a few of them again:

Reliability is no longer an issue with renewables. Renewables are less volatile than fossil fuel.

Renewable carbon imprint is smaller. Renewables allow Alaska to be more self-reliant, less dependent on supply chain.

Thanks for the important work and also your sacrifices to our state!!!

Kate Wedemeyer

[REDACTED], Anchorage

[REDACTED]

For thousands of years, the Dena'ina people have cared for these Dena'ina elnena homelands now known as Anchorage.

Thank you Dena'ina people for letting us walk on your land.



Virus-free. www.avast.com

From: [Robert Seitz](#)
To: [House Energy](#)
Subject: House Bill NO. 301
Date: Sunday, March 13, 2022 8:41:24 PM

Chair Schrage and Members of the Committee:

I am Robert Seitz, PE a registered Electrical Engineer in the State of Alaska with experience with Grid Tie of Renewable Energy Resources to the various entities that form the Railbelt Electrical Energy System. I have been designing Grid Tie connections ever since Net Metering and Grid Tie became law in Alaska. Since that time I have also been engaged in various National Standard Committees such as IEEE 1547 standards which guide the interconnection of Distributed Energy Resources to existing grids.

I have some objections to the bill as it is currently crafted. I believe that entire effort to form the Railbelt Reliability Council and this bill to establish a renewable Portfolio Standard have been extremely biased against the affected utilities to comply with the requirements thus making the non compliance fines of Sec 42.05.915 to be unreasonable under the imposed conditions.

It is my opinion that there needs to be plan in place that is supported by the State of Alaska to aid the utilities to determine what infrastructure needs to be in place to allow each of the utilities to have a realistic chance to meet the requirements set forth.

1. I have advocated for a few years that Pumped Hydro is one thing that would greatly enhance the ability for the utilities to connect and apply renewable resources to the system without curtailing the energy received. With sufficient pumped hydro capacity all of the renewable can be dispatched to pump water into the reservoir for storage for use at a later time. I have also advocated that long term energy storage is also required to provide the reliability and resiliency necessary for a system in Alaska. By long term energy storage I consider storage from June to January as a minimum to allow summer solar energy to be saved for winter months when solar energy is not in great supply but energy needs are great.

2. I also consider that hydrogen produced by electrolysis of water by the Wind, Solar or other renewable resource would also provide an adequate and acceptable energy storage to meet the long term energy storage need and allow all renewable energy resource to be used without curtailment of the renewable resource.

3. for connection of Utility Scale Wind or Solar or River Run Hydro substations would be required to be installed at the point of connection as it is unlikely there is an existing substation anywhere near where such connections would be made.

Each of these items represent infrastructure which each of the utilities would find difficult to finance and install in a timely manner without some support from the State of Alaska in some manner that would help keep the electrical costs low.

So based on the above discussion I recommend that the percentage stated in Sec 42.05.900 are too high to enforce at this time until an actual plan is in place that is realistic for the addition of infrastructure that would permit significant and meaningful addition of Renewable resources to the system. Once the infrastructure plan is in place that allows proactive

solicitation from IPP (Independent Power Producers) the percentages can be updated to more aggressive values which can be considered as achievable.

I also find that Sec 42.05.925 (9) (C) that specifically excludes nuclear power to be considered. I strongly recommend that this be altered to permit the use of Microreactor nuclear power plants for use in forming Micro Grids along the Railbelt system and for use elsewhere in Alaska.

I thank you for your consideration of my comments.

Robert L. Seitz, PE

[REDACTED]
Alaska 99567

[REDACTED]

March 14, 2022

The Honorable Representative Calvin Schrage
Chairman, House Energy Committee
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99891

RE: HB 301 Utilities Renewable Portfolio Standard

Dear Chairman Schrage and Members of the Committee:

As the House Special Committee on Energy is considers HB 301 Utilities: Renewable Portfolio Standard, it is critical that members understand the importance of coal in providing reliable, affordable, heat and power in Interior Alaska.

Coal-fired heat and power plants are the backbone of energy generation in Interior Alaska. In 2020, coal accounted for 43 percent of Golden Valley Electric Association's electricity generation. Interior Alaska's remote location and cold climate drive high energy demands in the region. Given coal's price advantage over other fuels in Interior Alaska, the absence of coal from the region's energy mix would significantly increase costs, which would likely be passed on to ratepayers.

Coal-fired generation provides firm, base-load heat and power. There is no readily available alternative to Alaska's coal fleet – natural gas is not readily available and renewable energy options cannot provide firm power. Renewable sources are intermittent and cannot be relied upon during Interior Alaska's cold, dark, winter months.

It is critical that Alaska's policy makers not only understand the realities of the region's unique energy needs and opportunities, but also approach this legislation sensibly so as not to cause unintended consequences. Jeopardizing the reliable, affordable, heat and power generated by coal in Interior Alaska to make room for more expensive and less-reliable, intermittent renewable energy is dangerous. Energy policy must prioritize reliability and affordability.

For more information, please visit www.usibelli.com and click on the link to the *Energy and Economic Impacts of Coal in Interior Alaska*. This report was produced by the McKinley Research Group and provides key data on the importance of coal in Interior Alaska.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Lorali M. Simon'.

Lorali M. Simon
VP, External Affairs