



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