

March 24, 2023

Senator Löki Tobin
State Capitol Room 11
Juneau AK, 99801

Representative Jesse Sumner
State Capitol Room 421
Juneau AK, 99801

Dear Sen. Tobin and Rep. Sumner,

Launch Alaska strongly supports the passage of Senate Bill 101 and House Bill 121, which would create a Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) for the five utilities in Alaska’s “Railbelt.” The bills would require these utilities to generate a specified percentage of their electricity from renewable resources according to the following timeline: 25% by 12/31/2027; 55% by 12/31/2035; and 80% by 12/31/2040.

At Launch Alaska, we work to accelerate the energy transition while unlocking incredible economic opportunities for Alaska. A strong RPS is a crucial piece in moving forward deployment of renewable energy in our state because it sets a clear, achievable, and binding timeline that utilities can incorporate into their planning.

As the cost of natural gas rises and the cost of renewable energy and battery technologies continue to decline, this policy makes economic sense to keep energy prices low and reduce dependence on natural gas for electricity. In February 2022, the National Renewable Energy Laboratory completed a report requested by Gov. Mike Dunleavy that found five different scenarios in which the Railbelt utilities could achieve 80% renewable generation by 2040 *without* impacting customer reliability. The study also found that reaching the 80% renewable standard would save billions of dollars in fuel costs over the next two decades.

The goals of an RPS mirror Launch Alaska’s - to see growth in clean energy development across the state and to lower the price of energy with the deployment of innovative solutions. Alaska has vast renewable energy resources and we’re excited by the prospect of an RPS spurring development of those assets and increasing energy independence. We hope the Alaska Legislature acts quickly to establish an RPS in Alaska.

Sincerely,



Mr. Isaac Vanderburg
CEO, Launch Alaska