



COLD CLIMATE HOUSING RESEARCH CENTER

CCHRC

March 24, 2023

The Honorable George Rauscher
Chair, House Energy Committee
120 4th Street
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Chair Rauscher and Members of the House Energy Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the Cold Climate Housing Research Center to express our strong support for HB 121, the Renewable Portfolio Standard. As a center dedicated to advancing sustainable and affordable housing solutions for Alaska and other cold climate regions, we believe that the adoption of renewable energy standards is critical in creating a resilient energy source for a cleaner, more sustainable and dependable future.

We understand that Alaska faces unique challenges in transitioning to renewable energy sources, including the high costs of energy and the harsh winter climate. However, we also believe that these challenges present an opportunity for innovation and leadership with the abundant renewable energy sources naturally produced in our state. By adopting an aggressive goal for renewable energy generation, Alaska can demonstrate its commitment to affordable energy generation and stimulate new technologies and best practices that can be adopted everywhere.

As an organization that has worked to advance innovative, energy-efficient building technologies and design strategies, we know that a renewable energy standard can also help to create new jobs in the energy sector, producing better air quality and public health outcomes that benefit all Alaskans, and set us up to diversify our economy and attract new investment.

In summary, we strongly urge you to support HB 121 and establish a Renewable Portfolio Standard in Alaska. Doing so will enable Alaska to take its rightful place in the nation's clean energy future, support local innovation and job creation, and protect the health and well-being of Alaska's communities and natural resources.

Sincerely,

Mindy L. O'Neall
Executive Director
Cold Climate Housing Research Center