



March 21, 2023

The Honorable George Rauscher, Chairman
House Energy
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 406
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: House Bill 121

Dear Chair Rauscher and Members of the Committee:

CIRI respectfully supports House Bill 121, an Act relating to a renewable portfolio standard; relating to electrical energy transmission; relating to distributed energy systems; relating to power cost equalization; relating to the Alaska Energy Authority; and providing for an effective date. 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. With a track record of successful renewable energy investments and a commitment to supporting local communities, CIRI wholeheartedly endorses this legislation.

Sincerely,

Cook Inlet Region, Inc.

Suzanne Settle
Vice President, Energy, Land & Resources