

## Konrad Jackson

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**From:** Bob Butera <butera@gci.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 23, 2023 4:55 PM  
**To:** Senate Labor and Commerce  
**Cc:** Sen. Löki Tobin; Sen. Elvi Gray-Jackson  
**Subject:** SB 101, Renewable Energy Portfolio Standards

Chair Bjorkman and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to ask you to pass Renewable Energy Portfolio Standards (RPS) for Alaska. These standards were proposed as aspirational both by Governors Palin and Dunleavy. It is long past the time to codify them in State Statute. We need to quickly move Alaska to lower cost, resilient, and stable forms of electrical generation. Distributed renewable generation provides these benefits, and it conserves our natural gas for heating our buildings.

Beyond codifying in statute the actual RPS standards, the most important part of this bill is the amendment of Sec. 3. AS 42.05.780(a) to include that an Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) must include options to satisfy RPS standards. The IRP will drive our electrical future and it must be updated as soon as possible and with RPS standards in place so that we can move forward in an orderly, cost effective way.

I suggest that Sec. 42.05.930. Definitions (9) be modify the definition of “renewable energy resource” to include nuclear power. The goal is to reduce carbon, and if nuclear will get us there, then let the IRP decide if it is the right path.

I also suggest slimming down this bill to focus exclusively on Renewable Energy Portfolio Standards. Its current emphasis on rooftop solar is a distraction and should be removed. There is an important role for solar to play in the Railbelt’s future, but it should be primarily developed as utility-scale solar.

Just a few days ago the latest UN report stated: *"There is still one last chance to shift course. But it would require industrialized nations to join together immediately to slash greenhouse gases roughly in half by 2030 and then stop adding carbon dioxide to the atmosphere altogether by the early 2050s. If those two steps were taken, the world would have about a 50 percent chance of limiting warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius. Delays of even a few years would most likely make that goal unattainable, guaranteeing a hotter, more perilous future. The pace and scale of what has been done so far and current plans are insufficient to tackle climate change. We are walking when we should be sprinting."*

The time is past to dawdle. Move the important parts of this bill forward.

Thank you,

Bob Butera  
Anchorage

## Konrad Jackson

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**From:** Bob Shavelson <bobshavelson@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 24, 2023 9:20 PM  
**To:** Senate Labor and Commerce; Sen. Jesse Bjorkman  
**Subject:** SB 101

Dear Chairman Bjorkman & Members of the Senate Labor & Commerce Committee -

I'm writing to strongly encourage you to pass SB 101 and adopt a renewable portfolio standard for Alaska.

I'm a long time resident of the Cook Inlet basin, and right now, one company has a virtual monopoly on natural gas production, and gas supply forecasts look bleak.

That means many Alaskans in southcentral Alaska can expect their home heating and electricity costs to continue to rise.

At the same time, the costs for renewable energy are declining rapidly.

For Alaskans facing the increasingly difficult effects of inflation, it makes little sense to continue to invest in finite energy resources that will cost us more in the long run.

The Cook Inlet basin is blessed with world-class renewable energy assets, and our massive tides, smoldering volcanoes and ample winds can provide long term affordable energy for years to come, while making Alaska a jobs and technology leader in the renewable energy sector.

I hope you agree, and will adopt SB 101.

Thank you -

Bob Shavelson  
Homer, Alaska

## Konrad Jackson

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**From:** Colleen Fisk <colleenrfisk@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 15, 2023 5:36 PM  
**To:** Senate Labor and Commerce  
**Subject:** SB 101

Chair Bjorkman and Members of the Committee:

I support the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) for Alaska. I am concerned by the projected shortfall of Cook Inlet Natural Gas which is producing 85% of the electricity for my utility (Matanuska Electric Association). MEA has an annual survey which shows that many of their members want more renewable energy, but MEA has been slow to significantly add renewables to their production. They have increased purchasing of solar power, however not at a fast enough rate to avoid the projected shortfall of natural gas in 2027. Renewable energy prices have plummeted, and a 2022 report by the National Renewable Energy Lab (NREL) concluded that increased renewable energy on the Railbelt grid would not impact reliability, contrary to the claims of the utilities.

Alaska is all about energy independence, and an RPS would support development of the vast wind, solar, geothermal, hydro, biomass, and tidal resources of the region, while still utilizing the existing natural gas power plants already built. That is true energy independence and resilience.

Sincerely,  
Colleen Fisk  
Wasilla, AK  
907-891-9608

## Konrad Jackson

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**From:** Peter and Paula <crimpcullenberg@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 24, 2023 2:40 PM  
**To:** Senate Labor and Commerce  
**Subject:** We support SB101

Dear Chair Bjorkman and Members of the Committee,

As Southcentral utility ratepayers for over 40 years, we are writing to voice our strong support for SB101, which would require increasing levels of renewable power generation on the Railbelt over the next 20 years. Our rationale is as follows:

- Our communities are running out of affordable natural gas for heat and power in Southcentral. According to DNR, demand may outstrip supply by 2027 and, short of developing other sources of energy, force us to import liquified natural gas at a premium. Given our state's abundant energy sources, exporting Alaskans' cash to pay for expensive energy harvested out-of-state simply doesn't make sense.
- Renewable energy in Alaska is abundant and economically competitive. Hydropower has been an important part of the mix for most of the last century. Cost of solar and wind generation has dropped to a fraction of their costs only ten years ago..
- We can't build a sustainable economy in Alaska by putting all our eggs in one basket. Natural gas and diesel have served us well, but we must diversify to maintain stable prices and energy supply over the next decades.
- Alaska is suffering from climate change. Instead of trying to maintain the status quo, we should demonstrate a commitment to new technologies in order to attract new jobs and retain our younger people. Instead of burning them, we should conserve our precious hydrocarbons for export and manufacture.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Peter Crimp and Paula Cullenberg  
4950 Craftsman Rd  
Homer, AK 99603  
907-440-6709expensive

## Konrad Jackson

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**From:** Dorothy Childers <dorothy.childers3@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 28, 2023 3:00 PM  
**To:** Senate Labor and Commerce  
**Subject:** SB 101 Renewable Portfolio Standard

Dear Chair Bjorkman and Members of the Senate Labor & Commerce Committee,

I want to offer my strongest and most enthusiastic support for SB 101 – Renewable Portfolio Standard. There are so many reasons to support the bill but foremost is the fact that producing electricity on the Railbelt is dependent on gas from Cook Inlet, which is running out!

A planned transition to renewable energy is an exciting opportunity to generate a predictable supply of electricity, stabilize costs by taking advantage of the dramatically declining costs of wind, solar, and batteries, and be a real leader in clean energy development. It will create good jobs and attract new economic activity in Alaska.

The prospect of importing LNG to replace Cook Inlet gas is not reasonable. This would keep us shackled to old technologies and steeply drive up rates for consumers — a clear disincentive for people to stay in Alaska or come to Alaska. I am also deeply concerned about our future if climate change goes unmitigated. So there are powerful reasons to move to renewable energy both for the health of our economy and as an important contribution to climate change solutions.

I urge the committee to move SB 101 forward without delay.

Sincerely,  
Dorothy Childers  
24301 Seward Hwy  
Indian, AK 99540

## Konrad Jackson

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**From:** Erin Borowski <erininak@gci.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 26, 2023 2:57 PM  
**To:** Senate Labor and Commerce  
**Subject:** SB 101

Dear Chair Bjorkman and Members of the Senate Labor & Commerce Committee

Alaska's railbelt needs a renewable portfolio standard which would require the electric utilities on the railbelt to generate an increasing percentage of their electricity from renewable resources starting now and increasing in the coming years.

With the prospect of Cook Inlet natural gas not being able to meet demand in the very near future, and the likelihood of utility rates increasing in response, it seems the time to diversify energy resources is now. The falling costs of implementing renewable energy sources - and the jobs this will create - also makes now the opportune time to act. The future of Alaska energy must turn to renewables.

My husband and I moved to Alaska 21 years ago with our young children and decided it was the place we wanted to make our home. Our kids are now married and raising children of their own, and we want Alaska to be the place they will want to stay and call home. The legislature must plan for the future now. There is no time to waste - please help SB101 become a reality.

Thank you,  
Erin Borowski  
16048 Wind Song Dr  
99516  
907-441-3340

## Konrad Jackson

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**From:** Griffin Hagle <griff.hagle@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 17, 2023 2:35 PM  
**To:** Senate Labor and Commerce  
**Subject:** SB 101

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Chair Bjorkman and Members of the Committee,

I am an Anchorage resident writing in favor of SB 101. Since 2015, my family has been proud to call Alaska our home. My wife and I are in our prime working years. We hope that our state leaders will act now to secure our energy future, so that families like ours can hope to prosper and contribute to a society that matches our splendid scenery.

Power generation on Alaska's Railbelt is overdependent on a single source of fuel: methane gas from Cook Inlet. A Renewable Portfolio Standard for the region would take advantage of one of the most hopeful advancements of the 21st century — the plummeting cost of renewable power — to diversify our energy mixture and improve reliability, affordability and energy independence.

Solar and wind are already competitive with fossil fuels and only getting less expensive. Over the last decade, utility-scale solar prices have dropped 90%, onshore wind power dropped 72% and lithium-ion batteries decreased 89%.

In 2020, the International Energy Agency (IEA) concluded that solar power was the cheapest form of electricity in history. Most new power plant capacity being built in the United States today is renewables. This is what it looks like when math wins.

A recent report by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) found five different pathways for the Railbelt to get to 80% renewable power without impacting reliability. NREL's researchers found that transmission upgrades, batteries, flexible hydropower and fossil gas generation can keep the system balanced in times of no sun, wind or water. Moving away from the inherent volatility of gas will stabilize energy prices and create good-paying local jobs in one of the most promising economic sectors of the modern era.

Whether you care mostly about social equity or the power of free enterprise, the beauty of this moment is that it has something for everyone.

Thank you for your consideration of this important bipartisan legislation.

Griffin Hagle-Forster  
2407 Cottonwood St  
Anchorage, AK 99508

Sent from my iPhone

## Konrad Jackson

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**From:** Jamie Hansen <jamie@iialaska.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 06, 2023 7:15 AM  
**To:** Senate Labor and Commerce  
**Cc:** Sen. Jesse Bjorkman  
**Subject:** SB 101

To Chair Bjorkman and Members of the Senate Labor & Commerce Committee:

I am writing in strong support to SB 101, and request you take action to move this legislation forward. I am the Principal Consultant with Information Insights, a member of the Renewable Energy Alaska Project, a small business owner in Fairbanks, a ratepayer with GVEA, and a mom who hopes my kids stay and thrive in Alaska.

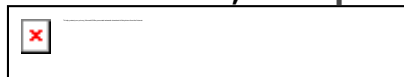
Now is the time for strategic action by the legislature to stabilize and lock in lower energy costs far into the future. The Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) is the foundation for this. The RPS combined with the recently introduced legislation on financing energy development projects (SB 125 and HB 154) would open up opportunity and provide a very clear pathway to reducing electricity costs, developing new areas of Alaska-based industry, and keeping money in our economy.




There is so much happening right now in rural and urban infrastructure from energy to broadband. Alaska is knocking it out of the park with federal dollars and local investments in broadband infrastructure. Clean and low-cost energy infrastructure should be the same, and the scale of the investment needed in energy is just as enormous. Again, a lot is already happening on transmission lines and more, the RPS is needed to focus in on renewable generation that will lower our costs and grow our economy.

Thank you,

Jamie

**JAMIE HANSEN, Principal Consultant & CEO** *she/her/hers*



 [jamie@iialaska.com](mailto:jamie@iialaska.com)  (907) 450-2461  [iialaska.com](http://iialaska.com)

Cold Climate Housing Research Center Building

PO Box 83070, Fairbanks AK 99708

My Hours: M-F 9:00-4:00 *Working from Fairbanks, Alaska*



## Konrad Jackson

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**From:** Janet Angel <por\_fin04@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 16, 2023 8:23 AM  
**To:** Senate Labor and Commerce  
**Subject:** Please support senate bill 101

It's passed time to make the switch to renewable energy. Think of our next generation as you consider this bill. Let's do our part to give our children and grandchildren a cleaner more stable world.

Janet Colón

## Konrad Jackson

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**From:** Joshua Knicely <knicely\_joshua@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 20, 2023 10:36 AM  
**To:** Senate Labor and Commerce  
**Subject:** SB 101

To Chair Bjorkman and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for taking the time to hear from Alaskans on Senate Bill 101. This bill will set up a Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS). I ask that all of you vote in favor of SB 101.

There are many reasons to support an RPS. These are the ones I consider most important.

- We are dangerously dependent on natural gas (and other fossil fuels); their supply and therefore their price is inherently volatile, repeatedly causing damage to our economy every time their price fluctuates.
- Renewable energy prices are plummeting! Solar and wind energy is already cost-competitive with natural gas and their prices are still improving.
- Distributed renewable energy IMPROVES grid resiliency. The National Renewable Energy Laboratory found 5 different pathways to increase renewables without impacting reliability.
- An RPS will make us energy independent! This improves national security and has huge benefits for our economy. The Alaska Climate Alliance's report titled "Alaska's Renewable Energy Future: New Jobs, Affordable Energy" showed that a full switch to renewables will require almost 100,000 long-term jobs, about 70,000 more jobs than all of the fossil fuel industry currently provides (for context, the Willow Project will only produce 2,500 short-term jobs, most of which will be for out-of-state workers).

For these reasons and many more, please vote 'yes' on SB 101 and set up a Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS).

Thank you,  
Joshua Knicely

## Konrad Jackson

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**From:** Kevin Blackwell <kevin@aksolarpower.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 25, 2023 11:15 AM  
**To:** Senate Labor and Commerce  
**Subject:** An email concerning SB 101

Dear Chair Bjorkman and Members of the Committee,

Hi. My name is Kevin Blackwell. I live in Anchorage, and work for Alaska Solar installing solar panels on residential and business properties. I would like to start this letter with a quick story from last Monday. I work for the United States Antarctic Program in the winter time (from October to February) and recently, I was asked to speak at my niece and nephew's school. I made a powerpoint, the United States Antarctic Program sent me a box of educational handouts and program issued cold weather gear, and I did my presentation for 3rd and 6th graders.

I started my presentation off by asking what these 3rd and 6th graders knew about Antarctica. I honestly don't remember learning much about the southern hemisphere, and so I was curious to know what they had learned. There were a lot of good comments. One student knew that Antarctica was technically a desert. Another student talked about the Antarctic Circle and how the sun moved across the continent. But what really impacted me during that presentation, was when a 3rd grader (8 or 9 years old) told me about how seals were dying because the ice they depend on is melting due to climate change. A 3rd grader told me that. Can you imagine? Can you imagine growing up your whole life with that kind of image, those kinds of details?

The reason I wanted to tell that story about my nephew's classmate is that I want your committee to imagine that 8 or 9 year old growing up. Let's say 10 years from now, when that child becomes a voter, that child that knew about the impacts of climate change at 8 or 9, can you imagine what that child will be asking his Alaska state senator, "We knew the impacts of climate change in 2023 when I was in 3rd grade. What did you do to stop them?"?

This all brings me to the main point of this letter. This! Senate Bill 101 is what you as members of the Senate Labor & Commerce Committee can point to. You can tell that child in 10 years, "We passed a bill that would establish a Renewable Portfolio Standard for the Railbelt" Your committee will be able to point to this legislation as being on the right side of the climate emergency.

There are several other good reasons to pass this bill. The associated costs of renewables has become much more competitive over the last 10 years. The natural gas situation in the Cook Inlet will become more expensive as supply declines. Renewable energy projects employ Alaskans and boost our economy.

I can't tell you how good it has felt to make the transition into working on renewable energy projects. It's such an exciting industry to be a part of and it is heartwarming to be surrounded by co-workers and customers that are interested in creative climate solutions. You can vote for this bill because it makes good financial sense. You can vote for this bill to help that 3rd grader I spoke to sleep a little better at night. Please just vote so that this legislation can become law.

Thanks for your time.

Kevin Blackwell

Crew Lead / [AlaskaSolar](#)

(336)541-2420



## Konrad Jackson

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**From:** N C <ndcolling@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 17, 2023 1:02 PM  
**To:** Senate Labor and Commerce  
**Subject:** SB 101

Chair Bjorkman and Members of the Committee,

I moved to Alaska to live in a more sustainable way. I am committed to the electrification of my home to contribute on a personal level. Having electricity supplied from renewable sources by my utility is critical and I support SB 101!

Thanks,  
-Nathan Collingridge

## Konrad Jackson

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**From:** Phil Kaluza <pkaluza@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 17, 2023 1:48 PM  
**To:** Senate Labor and Commerce  
**Subject:** SB101

Chair Bjorkman and Members of the Committee,

I am strongly in support of SB101, the Renewable Portfolio Standard for Alaska. We have the resources to achieve these goals. Our future depends on it.

Philip Kaluza  
PO Box 3234  
Seward, AK 99664

## Konrad Jackson

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**From:** Randy Brown <randystevenbrown@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 21, 2023 3:41 PM  
**To:** Senate Labor and Commerce  
**Subject:** SB 101

Chair Bjorkman and Members of the Committee,

It's crucial that we increase renewable energy in Alaska. It supports local jobs and contributes to national security. It also protects the thing that is most precious about Alaska: the natural environment. Please support SB 101!

Thanks,  
Randy Brown  
927 Juneau St #2  
Anchorage, AK 99501



# COLD CLIMATE HOUSING RESEARCH CENTER

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## CCHRC

March 24, 2023

The Honorable Jesse Bjorkman  
Chair, Senate Labor & Commerce Committee  
120 4th Street, Room 3  
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Chair Bjorkman and Members of the Senate Labor & Commerce Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the Cold Climate Housing Research Center to express our strong support for SB 101, 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 SB 101 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'Neill  
Executive Director  
Cold Climate Housing Research Center



March 21, 2023

The Honorable Jesse Bjorkman, Chairman  
Senate Labor & Commerce  
Alaska State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 9  
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: Senate Bill 101

Dear Chair Bjorkman and Members of the Committee:

CIRI respectfully supports Senate Bill 101, 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



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

## Konrad Jackson

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**From:** Deborah Vandruff <koalaak@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 17, 2023 1:32 PM  
**To:** Senate Labor and Commerce  
**Subject:** Support for SB 101

Dear Chair Bjorkman and Members of the committee,

My last letter had the wrong Bill and number. But I stand by my support for the creation of an RPS to diversify the way we get our energy and therefore ensure the availability of a future where we can use less toxic ways to get our energy.

Thank you for working on this vital project.

Deborah Vandruff, RN  
Anchorage, Alaska

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

## Konrad Jackson

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**From:** John & Gretchen <johngretchenak@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 15, 2023 9:15 AM  
**To:** Senate Labor and Commerce  
**Subject:** SB 101 - please support this important legislation

Chair Bjorkman and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to strongly request that you support this extremely important legislation. We must diversify our generational energy portfolio to avoid higher utility costs and avoid the dangerous dependency on fossil fuels and natural gas.

I want our state to be a leader across the country by adopting this must pass legislation. I worry for the future of my two young adult children and all others to come.

Analysis North found that reaching an 80% renewable standard would save billions of dollars in fuel costs over the next two decades. It's economics along with a desire for a future where we can have a healthy, stress free existence.

Thank you for your bold, action for our future.

Gretchen Nelson

3039 Alder Cir, Anchorage, AK 99508

## Konrad Jackson

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**From:** Hannah Payne <paynehhm@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 14, 2023 4:21 PM  
**To:** Senate Labor and Commerce  
**Subject:** SB 101

Chair Bjorkman and Members of the Committee,

I'm writing in support of the renewable portfolio standard bill. While I wish the bill was even more aggressive, we need to do something, anything to spur renewable energy development in our state. As the past ~15 years have shown, aspirational goals don't work - we need a legally binding mandate. Time is running out - in fact, it's already too late to solve the problem preemptively. We will most likely end up importing natural gas from outside the state in a few years. Energy prices on the Railbelt and in PCE communities are set to skyrocket when this happens. Natural gas must be phased out - both because it's too expensive to develop and due to climate change - but it's going to happen more quickly than we are prepared for. I'm disappointed in the decisionmakers of Alaska for the lack of action thus far. Please do something now.

With hope,

Hannah Payne  
Anchorage

## Konrad Jackson

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**From:** CarolinAK <alaskacarol7@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 13, 2023 3:46 PM  
**To:** Senate Labor and Commerce  
**Subject:** SB 101

Chair Bjorkman and Members of the Committee.

As an informed and concerned Alaskan, I am writing to you today to encourage your support of the Renewable Portfolio Standard, Senate Bill 101. We are in dire need to head toward renewable resources! Given new technology, this bill is achievable. We can reduce our dependence on Cook Inlet gas while creating energy stability.

Thank you,  
Carol DelValle  
5721 College Dr  
Anchorage, AK 99504  
(907)764-7672

## Konrad Jackson

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**From:** Sarah McCabe <sarah.mccabe.tx@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 08, 2023 2:57 PM  
**To:** Senate Labor and Commerce  
**Subject:** SB 101

Chair Bjorkman and Members of the Committee:

Please support the Renewable Portfolio Standards. We need to act early to stabilize our heating energy costs – a good way to do this is to diversify our energy sources, so we don't have to pay to import natural gas.

Sincerely

Sarah McCabe

Anchorage, AK

**Konrad Jackson**

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**From:** cdeck@gci.net  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 08, 2023 10:21 AM  
**To:** Senate Labor and Commerce  
**Subject:** SB 101

Chair Bjorkman and Members of the Committee,

I urge you to please pass the Renewable Energy Fund bill, as it is a proven and effective tool for clean energy development and lower energy costs, especially in rural Alaska.

I appreciate your attention to this important bi-partisan bill.

Sincerely, Cynthia Decker  
1636 Birchwood St  
Anchorage, Alaska 99508

## Konrad Jackson

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**From:** worcester1@gci.net  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 06, 2023 5:17 PM  
**To:** Senate Labor and Commerce  
**Cc:** Sen. Matt Claman  
**Subject:** SB 101

Chair Bjorkman and Members of the Committee,

I have a number of significant concerns with SB 101, the Renewable Energy Standards bill. While I believe that it is critical to address long-term plans for reliably and cost-effectively securing the electrical power needs of the Railbelt, and believe diversification of the Railbelt's electrical supply is necessarily a part of those plans, this bill has serious flaws.

First, the focus on renewable sources of energy, and the interim and 2040 deadlines are all arbitrary, with no apparent justification. It is clear that future Cook Inlet gas supply and cost is a serious issue. So is the issue of carbon emissions, which oddly is not addressed. But, any comprehensive search for solutions for long-term needs should include consideration of the potential for more Cook Inlet gas exploration and development (which would be chilled by the passage of this bill), LNG imports, and the potential for delivery of the abundant North Slope gas for utility use. The potential for nuclear-generated electrical power should not be excluded. Also, the capital costs and timelines for technical development, engineering, and permitting of the various potential sources of electrical power must be realistically evaluated. This bill jumps past all of these issues by simply positing renewable energy requirements and deadlines. This is irresponsible. Although there may be a lack of assurance of Cook Inlet gas supplies at this time, there could be more exploration and development, LNG could be imported, there is a huge stranded gas resource on the North Slope, and small nuclear generating plants are being developed. The utilities should not be hamstrung from seeking the most cost-effective and reliable sources of generation consistent with any emission reduction goals.

Second, implicit in the bill is the judgment that renewable sources of energy are "good," and non-renewable sources are "bad." However, this is simplistic. All the non-renewable resources require the use of non-renewable resources. Wind towers, turbine blades, solar panels, batteries and dams all involve mining of non-renewable resources, and the manufacturing and transportation of those materials also uses non-renewable resources. Also, if the real goal of the bill is to reduce carbon emissions, why is biomass ok, and why not consider carbon sequestration as mitigation for fossil fuel use?

Third, the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) study hardly justifies the provisions of this bill. The NREL report specifically states that its "analysis only included technology options included in the draft RPS design that was provided to NREL by the Governor's office. These resources include biomass, geothermal, hydropower, landfill gas, solar PV, tidal energy, and wind." (p.vi) The report candidly opens with the statement that "[d]ue to the quick turnaround time of approximately six weeks, we focused on ... developing a set of plausible 80% RPS scenarios...." (Emphasis added, p v.) It also cautioned "that this analysis was conducted to meet an immediate need and was based on the best information available within timing constraints. It is a starting point for additional research and consideration of investment or policy options. Other factors that can inform decision-making are not considered here. The analysis results are not intended to be the sole basis of investment, policy, or regulatory decisions." (p. 2) It admits that "the additional capital costs associated with the renewable resources" is a "primary uncertainty." (p. 31). Importantly, it punted on a key issue associated with balancing variable wind and solar power in a footnote: "We would typically perform an estimate of dynamic operating reserve requirements that account for the variability of wind and solar. Project timeline constraints prevented this, so we used a fixed level." (fn. 22, p. 15) Similar disclaimers are peppered throughout the report.

Fourth, and most troubling to me, is the hubris that legislation with such rigid, arbitrary restrictions and timelines will provide the promised results. In fact, it will almost certainly result in inefficient and suboptimal results. For instance,



the rigid short compliance schedule, combined with steep noncompliance penalties, would incentivize small distributed systems over large capital projects, which require a much longer engineering and permitting timelines. Yet, it is large projects, such as hydroelectric projects, that are needed to provide the load necessary to balance the variable wind and solar generated power. The problem is exacerbated by the fact that the NREL report created only a variety of scenarios, not an optimized one. Yet, the legislation simply assumes that the technology will be developed, investments made and optimizations made. Both private and government projects are typically subject to delays and cost-overruns. It is folly to think that the mandates in HB 101 will timely meet its goals.

Fifth, the bill would require all ratepayers to subsidize new solar panels and wind generators by getting retail credit for electrical power beyond the month in which it is generated. This is unfair, and may result in building more solar and wind generation than the system can balance.

Please do not pass this bill. The next step should be to pursue a feasibility and optimization study that includes all generation options. The study should be the basis for the development of a single achievable diversification plan and timelines, as opposed to a mishmash of “plausible scenarios” with arbitrary time and options constraints. As the NREL study put it, “[i]mportant next steps could include a comprehensive analysis of costs and benefits (including resilience) of various scenarios, analysis to support the interim targets, and engineering analysis of required transmission system upgrades to support deployment of renewable energy technologies in various locations throughout Alaska’s Railbelt grid.” ([p.vi](#))

Thank you for considering my views.

Mark Worcester  
2247 Arctic Circle  
Anchorage, AK 99517

## Konrad Jackson

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**From:** Jamie Hansen <jamie@iialaska.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 06, 2023 7:15 AM  
**To:** Senate Labor and Commerce  
**Cc:** Sen. Jesse Bjorkman  
**Subject:** SB 101

To Chair Bjorkman and Members of the Senate Labor & Commerce Committee:

I am writing in strong support to SB 101, and request you take action to move this legislation forward. I am the Principal Consultant with Information Insights, a member of the Renewable Energy Alaska Project, a small business owner in Fairbanks, a ratepayer with GVEA, and a mom who hopes my kids stay and thrive in Alaska.

Now is the time for strategic action by the legislature to stabilize and lock in lower energy costs far into the future. The Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) is the foundation for this. The RPS combined with the recently introduced legislation on financing energy development projects (SB 125 and HB 154) would open up opportunity and provide a very clear pathway to reducing electricity costs, developing new areas of Alaska-based industry, and keeping money in our economy.




There is so much happening right now in rural and urban infrastructure from energy to broadband. Alaska is knocking it out of the park with federal dollars and local investments in broadband infrastructure. Clean and low-cost energy infrastructure should be the same, and the scale of the investment needed in energy is just as enormous. Again, a lot is already happening on transmission lines and more, the RPS is needed to focus in on renewable generation that will lower our costs and grow our economy.

Thank you,

Jamie

**JAMIE HANSEN, Principal Consultant & CEO** *she/her/hers*



 [jamie@iialaska.com](mailto:jamie@iialaska.com)  (907) 450-2461  [iialaska.com](http://iialaska.com)

Cold Climate Housing Research Center Building

PO Box 83070, Fairbanks AK 99708

My Hours: M-F 9:00-4:00 *Working from Fairbanks, Alaska*

## Konrad Jackson

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**From:** John Davies <jdavies1945@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 01, 2023 9:01 PM  
**To:** Senate Labor and Commerce  
**Subject:** SB 101  
**Attachments:** RPS letter to Leg.docx

Please see attached letter

## Konrad Jackson

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**From:** Zachary Brown <zacharywestbrown@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 01, 2023 1:52 PM  
**To:** Senate Labor and Commerce  
**Subject:** SB 101

Dear Chair Bjorkman and Members of the Committee,

Hello from Gustavus, my name is Zach Brown, and I am a rural Alaskan and a climate scientist.

I strongly urge you to support bipartisan SB 101, which would establish a renewable portfolio standard (RPS) for Alaska. With climate change beating down our door, high fuel prices harming rural Alaskans, and massive Federal incentives for clean energy made available by the Inflation Reduction Act, THIS IS THE MOMENT TO ACT!

Thank you for protecting our climate and our communities by supporting SB 101.

Thank you,  
Zach Brown,  
Gustavus AK

\*\*\*

Zach Brown  
PhD, Stanford University  
Co-Executive Director, Tidelines Institute  
Living & Working on Traditional Tlingit lands of the Huna Káawu  
[zach@tidelinesinstitute.org](mailto:zach@tidelinesinstitute.org)  
907-697-2210

*Please talk about the climate crisis.*

## Konrad Jackson

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**From:** Dale Banks <dale@loopylupine.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 29, 2023 4:07 PM  
**To:** Senate Labor and Commerce  
**Subject:** SB101

Chair Bjorkman and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to support SB101. Non-binding goals may feel good but they usually do not work. We need to follow the example of over half the states in the USA and implement a Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) for the Railbelt utilities. Wind and solar can be developed quickly, will create many good paying jobs, and will reduce our energy costs in the long run. We need to be more proactive in the transition to renewables since there is a diminishing supply of fossil fuels in Alaska and the world. This makes sense for the economy and for the environment.

Please support SB101.

Thank you for your time,

Dale Banks

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Dale Banks  
Loopy Lupine  
LoopEride  
PO Box 2888

4854 Eagle Place

Homer, Alaska 99603

[https://urldefense.com/v3/\\_\\_http://loopylupine.com\\_\\_;!!LdQKC6s!KroZDV4JQyrPAsKp89mR8OT\\_Sy1j24YCIDnEGaJZ9r8OHZhDVe3qsGOyJHP79nCxaCzSoxOXZSKRiUIDYIM7eQYe-JL8\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/__http://loopylupine.com__;!!LdQKC6s!KroZDV4JQyrPAsKp89mR8OT_Sy1j24YCIDnEGaJZ9r8OHZhDVe3qsGOyJHP79nCxaCzSoxOXZSKRiUIDYIM7eQYe-JL8$)

[https://urldefense.com/v3/\\_\\_http://LoopEride.com\\_\\_;!!LdQKC6s!KroZDV4JQyrPAsKp89mR8OT\\_Sy1j24YCIDnEGaJZ9r8OHZhDVe3qsGOyJHP79nCxaCzSoxOXZSKRiUIDYIM7eW\\_cutKq\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/__http://LoopEride.com__;!!LdQKC6s!KroZDV4JQyrPAsKp89mR8OT_Sy1j24YCIDnEGaJZ9r8OHZhDVe3qsGOyJHP79nCxaCzSoxOXZSKRiUIDYIM7eW_cutKq$)

907-235-5100 office

907-299-0524 mobile



April 20, 2023

**Senator Löki Tobin**  
State Capitol Room 11  
Juneau AK, 99801

**Representative Jesse Sumner**  
State Capitol Room 421  
Juneau AK, 99801

Dear Senator Tobin and Representative Sumner,

**Carter Wind strongly supports the passage of Senate Bill 101 and House Bill 121**, which would create a Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) for Alaska's five urban utilities, achieving 80% by December 31, 2040.

Based in Wichita Falls, Texas, Carter Wind manufactures the world's most advanced, two-blade wind turbines, utilizing a self-erecting, guyed tower design that eliminates the need for cranes. The result is a turbine that is cheaper to install, simpler to transport, and easier to maintain. Our relationship with Alaska started in 2018 through Launch Alaska's climate technology deployment program. We have an interest in seeing Alaska's policies prioritize deployment of renewable energy, providing energy price stability, reduced carbon emissions, and local jobs, and an RPS will help achieve all four.

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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Matt Carter", is written over the word "Sincerely,".

Matt Carter  
CTO + Founder, Carter Wind

## Konrad Jackson

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**From:** Laura Marcus <laura.b.marcus@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 28, 2023 12:31 PM  
**To:** Senate Labor and Commerce  
**Subject:** SB 101

Dear Chair Bjorkman and Members of the Committee,

Please advance SB 101, a Renewable Portfolio Standard, as soon as possible!

It would be suicidal to miss this moment and begin importing expensive gas. This critical legislation will open huge pools of federal \$\$ to build energy infrastructure in our state.

Please act on SB 101 for true energy independence!

Thank you for your consideration,  
Laura Marcus  
Gustavus, AK

## Konrad Jackson

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**From:** Zachary Brown <zacharywestbrown@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 28, 2023 12:13 PM  
**To:** Senate Labor and Commerce  
**Subject:** Please push SB 101

Dear Chair Bjorkman and Members of the Committee,

Please advance SB 101, a Renewable Portfolio Standard, as soon as possible!

It would be suicidal to miss this moment and begin importing expensive gas. This critical legislation will open huge pools of federal \$\$ to build energy infrastructure in our state.

Please act on SB 101 for true energy independence!

Thank you for your consideration,  
Zach Brown  
Gustavus, AK



## Konrad Jackson

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**From:** A Steer <anjsteer@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 28, 2023 6:48 AM  
**To:** Rep. George Rauscher  
**Cc:** Senate Labor and Commerce; House Energy  
**Subject:** Energy Bill HB121/ Senate Bill 101

Representative Rauscher,

Chair Bjorkman and Members of the Committee:

Please consider supporting a Renewable Energy Portfolio (RPS). If additional hearings are needed, please schedule them. This is an urgent matter for our state's economy.

An RPS will stabilize electric costs, keep precious energy dollars from leaving the state, diversify our economy, and attract new investment. As a lifelong Alaskan who is proud to call Alaska home this is very important to me and the small business I operate. I want to see local energy sources, especially renewable sources as a top of our priority for managing today's energy demands. The cost of renewable energy is lowering and I want our state to lead the way in using renewable energy.

Thank you for your service.

Sincerely,

Anjanette Steer  
Palmer, AK.

## Konrad Jackson

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**From:** Michael Powell <mrp26@caa.columbia.edu>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 27, 2023 8:43 PM  
**To:** Senate Labor and Commerce  
**Subject:** SB 101

Honorable Chair Bjorkman and Members of the Committee,

I very much appreciate the time you take to discuss and learn about the very complex energy issues of our state. Having an interest in the subject, I learned that I could personally save money by investing in solar for my home. I now know that I am further helping my neighbors and doing my part to burn less natural gas. But I have learned that our state is nearing an energy emergency as our base resource of natural gas runs out. Although it helps, what individual homeowners like myself do it is just not enough. We need more.

I would therefore urge you to take action to assure we have a sustainable, reliable and affordable energy production portfolio in Alaska by supporting SB 101 which is essential for this. By establishing renewable energy standards, you can also do a part to help my neighbors and set the pace in which our utilities can meet our communities energy needs and sidestep the emergency.

Please support the urgently needed passage of SB 101.

Thank you for your service

From:  
Michael Powell  
3208 Woodland Park  
Anchorage, AK  
99517

From: Michael Powell

## Konrad Jackson

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**From:** ANISSA BERRY <backlagoon@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 27, 2023 6:10 PM  
**To:** Senate Labor and Commerce  
**Subject:** SB 101

Dear Senator Bjorkman and Members of the Committee,

I urge you to schedule additional hearings for SB 101. It is critical that Alaska creates the framework and infrastructure to achieve a future run by sustainable energy. By having an RPS, power consumers will help utilities to plan for a staggered shift away from non-renewable energy sources and make it feasible for Alaskans to afford sustainable energy. The technology is out there, we just have to have the foresight and innovation to set the ball in motion. We need to progress into the future for our energy needs and distance ourselves from the harms of fossil fuels.

Anissa Berry  
PO Box 1222  
Haines, AK 99827  
907-766-3490

## Konrad Jackson

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**From:** gehring\_brian <gehring\_brian@asdk12.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 27, 2023 11:47 AM  
**To:** Senate Labor and Commerce  
**Subject:** SB 101

Chair Bjorkman and Members of the Committee,

As a secondary school physics/science teacher I am very interested in the economic and practical direction of Alaska's future. While our state faces a wide variety of challenges, attracting and retaining skilled young adults is absolutely necessary to support the projected aging population (ACoA, 2022). Through my daily contact with advanced students, I can definitively say that youth care about a clean energy future as well and they overwhelmingly desire jobs that are meaningful. I hope that the consideration of Alaskan youth factors into the discussion around this bill.

The economics of bringing more systems online sure looks advantageous! One of my project-based classes read SB 101, researched a wide variety of commercially available products, and did the calculations to show how bringing these online would fulfill the requirements while saving consumers money long-term.

Sources:

Alaska Council on Aging, (2022). Senior Snapshot in 2022. [https://health.alaska.gov/acoa/Documents/ACoA\\_seniorsnapshot\\_2022.pdf](https://health.alaska.gov/acoa/Documents/ACoA_seniorsnapshot_2022.pdf)

Thank you,  
Brian Gehring  
Steller Secondary  
907-742-9740  
[My Zoom link](#)

## Konrad Jackson

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**From:** Sarah McCabe <sarah.mccabe.tx@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 23, 2023 2:57 PM  
**To:** Senate Labor and Commerce  
**Subject:** SB 101

Chair Bjorkman and Members of the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee

Here in Anchorage we are dependent on natural gas from Cook Inlet for both heat and electricity. Soon we will have to decide whether to import Liquid Natural Gas from abroad, or bring it from the North Slope by truck as Fairbanks is currently doing.

Both schemes will make heating our houses more expensive. Please pass the Renewable Portfolio Standards so that Chugach Electric Association and the other Southcentral electric utilities diversify their sources for energy to produce electricity.

Sincerely

Sarah McCabe  
Anchorage, AK

## Konrad Jackson

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**From:** Tim Hinterberger <tim.hinterberger@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 23, 2023 12:38 PM  
**To:** Senate Labor and Commerce  
**Subject:** SB 101

Chair Bjorkman and Members of the Committee,

As energy industry experts have reported, Alaska's Railbelt utility rates are going to increase dramatically in the next five years if we do not diversify our generation portfolio.

Luckily, renewable energy costs are plummeting, with utility-scale solar electricity prices dropping 90%, while the cost of land-based wind energy decreased 72% between 2009 and 2021. The National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) completed a study requested by Governor Mike Dunleavy that found five different scenarios in which the Railbelt could achieve 80% renewable generation by 2040 without impacting customer reliability.

A Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) for the Railbelt region, as Senate Bill 101 creates, will stabilize electric costs, keep precious energy dollars from leaving the state, diversify our economy, and attract new investment. Wind and solar can be developed quickly, and doing so will create thousands of new jobs. This 21st century workforce will diversify our state's labor market and keep Alaska competitive in a fast-changing world.

I urge you to pass SB 101 out of the Labor and Commerce Committee and to do everything you can to see that it is enacted into law in this session.

Sincerely,

Tim Hinterberger

905 W 12th Ave.  
Anchorage 99501

## Konrad Jackson

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**From:** Bill Beck <akbill@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 23, 2023 5:56 AM  
**To:** Senate Labor and Commerce  
**Subject:** SB101

### Chair Bjorkman and Members of the Committee

I read with interest this morning SB101.

I support your efforts in getting SB 101 this passed.

I especially agree with the “net Metering” section, and the verbiage of :

“at the full retail rate per 28 kilowatt-hour, of electric energy supplied by the customer's distributed energy system 29 to the load-serving entity” and fine with the credit expiring once a year on 31MAR.

Certainly more fair than the current credits offered by the “load-serving entity” and feel it would promote more interest in individual home investment in solar attentive energy installations ( helping the utility meet the alternative percentage requirement).

Put me in the “yes” column for this effort, and thank you

William Beck

Chair B  
Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows



# Chickaloon Village Traditional Council

## (Nay'dini'aa Na' Kayax)

### VIA EMAIL

Chief Gary Harrison,  
*Chairman/Elder*

Philip Ling,  
*Vice-Chair*

Cheryl Sherman,  
*Secretary*

Doug Wade,  
*Treasurer/Elder*

Emily Ling,  
*Member*

Lisa Wade,  
*Executive Director*

Serena Martino,  
*Executive Assistant*

10 April 2023

Senate Labor & Commerce Committee  
120 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Room 3  
Juneau, AK 99801  
Senate.Labor.And.Commerce@akleg.gov

Re: SB 101, Renewable Portfolio Standard

Ugheli Dzaen (Good Day) Chair Bjorkman and Members of the Committee:

Chickaloon Native Village (CNV) is a federally recognized Tribal Government governed by Chickaloon Village Traditional Council (CVTC), with all the inherent powers of a sovereign Ahtna Dene (Athabascan) Nation. CNV is located in the Matanuska River watershed of upper Cook Inlet in southcentral Alaska, where CNV's Tribal citizens have thrived for thousands of years. Actions that occur within our traditional ancestral territory and customary area of use impact our environment, our cultural resources, and the health of our Tribal citizens and community members.

CVTC supports SB101, the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) bill. This would require the five Railbelt Utilities, as a collective whole, to source 25% of their power from renewable energy by the end of 2027, 55% by the end of 2031, and 80% by the end of 2040. While the goal of the state must be reducing carbon emissions, part of this involves transitioning to renewable energy sources.

### **Aspirational goals do not work.**

The State of Alaska has had an aspirational goal of achieving 50% renewables by 2025. CVTC is within the Matanuska Electric Association (MEA) utility area. MEA had an aspirational goal of reaching 30% renewables by 2030. Neither the State of Alaska nor MEA is currently on track to meet their aspirational goals.

### **A Renewable Portfolio Standard is one approach to carbon reduction.**

The concentration of greenhouse gases, primarily carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), in the atmosphere is greater now than at any time humans have been on earth, and is increasing at a rate never before seen. The concentration of these gases must be reduced for earth to remain within the climate zones that life has adapted to. For decades the Matanuska-Susitna Borough (MSB) has been one of the state's fastest population growth regions. In 2012, MEA released 0.5 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>-equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>e) per megawatt hour, and in 2021 it released 0.4 metric tons, despite increasing renewable energy sources from near-zero to 15%, due to increasing human population and increasing electricity demand (MEA Innovation Committee meetings, February 24, 2022). The RPS should not penalize areas undergoing rapid growth, if the utility is actively increasing the percent of power sourced from renewables AND the Railbelt Utilities overall is reaching the set goals. We re-iterate that reducing carbon pollution must be the foundational goal, including within the MSB, and the RPS is just one mechanism on that path.



**The Renewable Portfolio Standard will allow the Regulatory Commission of Alaska to balance rates, reliability, and renewables.**

The Regulatory Commission of Alaska (RCA) approves or denies a utility's request to incorporate a renewable energy project based on how the project will affect customer rates. This is short-sighted. We know that Cook Inlet is running out of natural gas, which MEA relies on, and costs will increase once that occurs. Instead of acting as a barrier to MEA bringing on renewable energy projects, the RCA should approve project requests, even if they increase rates, if they move the utility towards meeting the RPS. Especially now, with federal incentives, there may be little to no increase in customer rates.

**The State of Alaska should remove the requirement that Tribal governments waive sovereign immunity to partner in funding renewable energy projects.**

The RPS goals will be better achieved if Tribal governments are active participants. The Alaska Energy Authority, a corporation of the State of Alaska, is interested in partnering with Tribal governments to develop renewable energy projects. However, they continue to require a waiver of sovereign immunity. The State of Alaska recently "recognized" Tribal governments; as part of this, they should remove all requirements for waivers of sovereign immunity. Much of the federal funding that is available for transitioning off fossil fuels is set aside specifically for Tribal governments, and much of the funding opportunities waive a requirement for matching funds if an entity partners with one or more Tribes. From a moral and fiscal perspective, the State of Alaska's current requirement for sovereign immunity waivers for Tribal government on any project, including but not limited to renewable energy, should be permanently eliminated.

**The RPS will stimulate vocational training.**

Although technologies such as heat pumps are available now and can begin immediately saving a homeowner or business money, it is difficult to get them installed due to a lack of installation technicians. An RPS will stimulate the need for more vocational training, such as that offered by Sealaska Corporation to get youth and others quickly into new jobs. See <https://mysealaska.com/Opportunities/HeatPump>.

**Closing**

Although the initial build-out of renewable energy projects and transmission infrastructure will have costs, *this* is the time to invest. There is significant federal financing available to assist with this build-out, the costs of renewable energy are quickly dropping, and natural gas costs are going to face a steep increase as Cook Inlet natural gas fields are tapped out. Building out the infrastructure will provide job opportunities, and once the infrastructure is in place, energy costs will stabilize and workers will still be needed to maintain systems.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

May Nek'eltaeni (Creator) Guide our Footsteps,



Chief Gary Harrison (Apr 10, 2023 15:29 AKDT)

Chief Gary Harrison  
Chairman






# 2023.04.10 RPS support letter Senate

Final Audit Report

2023-04-10

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By:	Jessica Winnestaffer (jewinnestaffer@chickaloon-nsn.gov)
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## "2023.04.10 RPS support letter Senate" History

-  Document created by Jessica Winnestaffer (jewinnestaffer@chickaloon-nsn.gov)  
2023-04-10 - 11:21:31 PM GMT
-  Document emailed to chiefgaryharrison@chickaloon-nsn.gov for signature  
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-  Email viewed by chiefgaryharrison@chickaloon-nsn.gov  
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-  Signer chiefgaryharrison@chickaloon-nsn.gov entered name at signing as Chief Gary Harrison  
2023-04-10 - 11:29:46 PM GMT
-  Document e-signed by Chief Gary Harrison (chiefgaryharrison@chickaloon-nsn.gov)  
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April 27, 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,

ZeroAvia 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.

ZeroAvia is developing the first practical, zero-emission powertrains for aircraft. These powertrains consist of an electrical motor powered by hydrogen fuel-cells; they are coming faster than you might believe, with entry-into-service planned for 2025, and ZeroAvia has been hard at work developing customer relationships with commercial aircraft operators in Alaska (e.g. Ravn and others) to speed adoption of this novel, zero-emission technology.

Because the hydrogen powering our technology is most sustainably produced through electrolysis of water, the proposed renewable fuel standard will have a direct positive impact on the carbon abatement achievable by our powertrains. Such a standard will ensure that a hydrogen-enabled airport can plug into the grid and confidently purchase renewable electricity, thereby producing the cleanest hydrogen and maximizing the carbon abatement of flights powered by ZeroAvia powertrains. Short of an airport installing its own renewable power source (e.g., a solar or wind array), there is no more sustainable approach to commercial aviation.

As the cost of Jet A rises in the coming years, and with a dire shortage of Sustainable Aviation Fuel available to Alaska's many small carriers, this policy will help make green hydrogen cost-competitive with fossil fuels and will incentivize operator adoption of true zero-emission flight. With the lower operating costs our technology offers, this can result not only in cleaner aviation in Alaska's skies, but in enhanced service to isolated communities where the economics previously discouraged air routes.

These two bills offer the Alaska Legislature an opportunity to advance clean energy across the state and save Alaskans money, while also supporting innovative businesses operating in the state. ZeroAvia believes this is a rare chance to deliver an easy win, and we hope the legislature acts quickly to establish a renewable Power Standard in Alaska.

Sincerely,

Val Miftakhov, Founder & CEO