



February 8, 2023

The Honorable James Kaufman  
Senate Resources Committee  
Alaska State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 115  
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: Senate Bill 33

Dear Senator Kaufman and Members of the Committee:

CIRI respectfully supports Senate Bill 33, an Act relating to the renewable energy grant fund and recommendation program; and providing for an effective date. For too long Southcentral Alaska has relied on a single 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. The proposed extension of the renewable energy grant fund is a critical step in supporting communities in their efforts to reduce dependence on fossil fuels, promoting investment, innovation and collaboration in the renewable energy sector. The proposed legislation is a win-win for the economy and the citizens of Southcentral Alaska.

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 enough electricity to meet the annual demand of 6,500 homes and has eliminated more than 5 billion cubic feet of natural gas consumption since the project was commissioned. Additionally, CIRI has invested in over 650 megawatts of 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