

**CHUGACH ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION, INC.**  
**Anchorage, Alaska**

**OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY**

**August 8, 2008**

**ACTION REQUIRED**

**AGENDA ITEM NO. VII.**

**Information Only**  
 **Motion**  
 **Resolution**  
 **Executive Session**  
 **Other**

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**TOPIC**

Chugach Electric Association Election Campaign Finance Reform

**DISCUSSION**

Each spring Chugach holds an election for its Board of Directors. It is in the best interest of the Association that these elections be conducted in a fair, open and impartial manner and that the candidates for these elections are candid, open and forthright with regard to any biases, positions or influences they carry into the election. In recent years, the amount of money spent on Chugach election campaigns has risen dramatically. The high cost of the campaigns makes it difficult if not impossible for a person of modest means to conduct a successful campaign without outside financial help. Those financial contributions may make the candidate subject to the influences of those contributing to the campaign. The members of Association are entitled to know who has contributed to campaigns so that they as voters may be able to assess what influences those contributions may have. Such disclosures are required in all local, state and federal elections. Currently there is no regulation of the finances for Chugach election campaigns. It is in the best interest of the Association to, at a minimum, require the disclosure of campaign contributions made to candidates in Chugach elections. It is also in the best interest of the Association for the Board of Directors to consider other campaign finance reforms including limiting the amount of campaign contributions, setting a spending limit for the overall cost of campaigns, limiting the contributions to Association members only, and/or prohibiting contributions from labor unions and corporations.

**MOTION**

Move that the Operations Committee recommend to the Board of Directors to direct the CEO to research campaign Finance Reform requirements that have been adopted by other cooperatives, non-profit organizations and public elected bodies that could possibly be applied to Chugach, including the enforcement mechanisms for those requirements. Furthermore, that the CEO research other campaign reforms as mentioned in the discussion above, including the enforcement mechanisms for such requirements. The results of the research will be presented to the Operations Committee for consideration.