



Official Business

# Alaska State Legislature

P.O. Box V  
State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska 99811

June 26, 2007

Elizabeth Vazquez  
Chairwoman  
Board of Directors  
Chugach Electric Association  
P.O. Box 196300  
Anchorage, AK 99519

Dear Ms. Vazquez,

We are writing regarding the appropriation of fifteen million dollars from the Railbelt Energy Fund to Chugach Electric Association in the 2007 capital budget.

As senators who were present during the negotiations that led to this year's final distribution of the Railbelt Energy Fund, we wanted to convey to you that our intent was that the money be used for wind power generation on Fire Island. We participated in several sessions of negotiations on the appropriate division of the corpus of the Railbelt Energy Funds. Our purpose was to secure a fair share of the Fund for the creation of a wind farm on Fire Island. We recognize that the final language in the capitol budget is phrased as an alternative; nevertheless, we believe that the best use of these monies would be to connect to the Fire Island wind project.

We understand that the board's objective is to provide reliable power at the lowest price and we believe that an investment in wind energy is doing just that. As you know, wind energy is ever evolving as technology advances, and is becoming commonplace as a utility source of electric power. We in southcentral Alaska are fortunate to have a world class wind farm site within easy reach of our largest city's power grid.

The benefits of investing in wind power are many. Wind, foremost, is a clean and renewable energy source that does not rely on declining fossil fuel sources. In addition, wind has and will always be a free source of energy, and operation costs for wind farms are steady and predictable.


Your Chugach customers have demonstrated a strong support for wind power. Many of your customers are also our constituents, and likewise, we have heard from Fire Island supporters in our districts. Similarly, wind power has support nationally. Our own Senator Lisa Murkowski is a strong Fire Island proponent and is working to provide federal matching funds for the project.


We respectfully ask that the Chugach board honor the work we did in achieving a fair distribution of the Railbelt Energy Fund. Please put these funds towards transmission lines connecting the Fire Island wind farm to Anchorage's existing electrical grid.

We are also contacting Mayor Begich and requesting a similar commitment for the funds appropriated to ML&P for the Fire Island Project.


Sincerely,

  
Senator Bettye Davis

  
Senator Johnny Ellis

  
Senator Hollis French

  
Senator Lesil McGuire

  
Senator Bill Wielechowski

Cc Chugach Board Members