



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Governor Thanks Utilities for Supporting Consolidation**

November 13, 2009, Anchorage, Alaska – Governor Parnell today commended three Railbelt utilities for supporting the proposed Greater Railbelt Energy and Transmission Corporation (GRETC).

Chugach Electric Association, Matanuska Electric Association and the City of Seward held a joint meeting today and expressed support for the legislation that would establish the corporation.

With the Legislature's authorization, GRETC would consolidate the generation and transmission assets of the six utilities serving the region. The legislation was developed following the completion of a regional study of options for restructuring the utilities.

"Affordable and reliable power is a fundamental building block for economic growth," Governor Parnell said. "Cooperation and joint planning is essential for economic growth. I look forward to working with utilities that are ready to roll up their sleeves and work together."

The GRETC bill was introduced in the Legislature last session and remains in the energy committees of both chambers.

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