



March 13, 2020

*Submitted electronically*

Subject: Support Electric Reliability Organizations

Dear Co-Chair Lincoln, Co-Chair Tarr and members of the House Resources Committee,

The Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce supports defining and regulating electric reliability organizations (EROs) in statute in order to create more stability in the power generation system of Alaska. As currently presented, ERO legislation in the House builds upon the work already done by electric utilities of the railbelt intertie and reinforces the need to complete this process of standing up the Railbelt Reliability Council.

The reliability of the power supply and the stability of prices hugely impact our ability to live and do business in Interior Alaska. Utilities selling power to or purchasing power from other regions of the state need to uphold standards which will support a robust system. We believe that regulating the creation and operation of EROs will encourage stability and cooperation along the entire railbelt intertie.

While we support the goal of ensuring standards across the system, it is also imperative for each utility to have the ability to maintain and grow generation capacity as needed to best support their rate payers. Energy is a major expense for all business sectors in Interior Alaska, and residents and businesses rely on a very small number of power generators. The reliability of the intertie itself is essential to the success of the entire system, and local producers need enough flexibility to ensure that they can keep the lights on in the event of a transmission interruption.

The Fairbanks Chamber would like to thank Senator Coghill, President Giessel, and Representative Hopkins for leading the thoughtful work on this bill to ensure that it meets the needs of all those affected. We urge both the House and the Senate to continue to protect the interests of all communities along the intertie.

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The Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce represents over 700 business members throughout Interior Alaska. We work to advocate for the best business environment, promote economic strength and growth for interior Alaska, and to develop the resources and networks enterprising people use to share knowledge.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marisa Sharrah".

Marisa Sharrah  
President/CEO

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sabrina Binkley".

Sabrina Binkley  
Board Chair

CC: Interior Delegation