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Member of the National League of Cities and the National Association of Counties

Southeast Conference
9360 Glacier Highway, Suite 201
Juneau, AK 99801

March 26, 2024

Re: Climate Pollution Reduction Implementation Grant (CPRG) - Letter of collaborative support for the Accelerating Clean Energy Savings in Alaska's Coastal Communities Program (ACES – AK)

Dear Mr. Venables,

On behalf of the Alaska Municipal League please accept this letter of support for an implementation grant application to the Environmental Protection Agency's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant program by the Southeast Conference (SEC) and Alaska Heat Smart (AHS). In drafting the state plan, we saw the *Accelerating Clean Energy Savings in Alaska's Coastal Communities Program (ACES - AK)* as a key transformative measure of Alaska's Priority CPRG Plan. With its regional focus, this program promises to set Alaska's coastal communities as a leader and model for deep residential heating decarbonization.

AML is excited to be a part of a potential generational opportunity for transformative impacts on the energy systems of disadvantaged, rural communities in Alaska especially when considering the array of benefits to be realized from the multi-faceted, programmatic elements of the application including engine replacements through DGR, upgrades to distribution systems, and energy efficiency measures through VEEP. As a sub-recipient, AML will support the application with workforce development infrastructure which will consist of aiding applicants with recruitment, skill development, career navigation, and wraparound services such as childcare, housing and living stipends.

AML will work with the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation to establish a statewide tracking and reporting system for CPRG awardees to combine into a database. Lastly, AML will lead a statewide cohort of awardees to participate in CPRG planning and creation of a sustainability plan. Working with AML's coastal caucus and Port Communities group, we are well-positioned to coordinate with relevant communities on this work. AML believes strongly in the transformative impact of decarbonizing space heating, which holds the potential to reduce community energy burden and improve community resilience. Weighed down by some of the nation's highest energy burden, many coastal communities spend over 50% of their household incomes on heat alone. The ACES – AK Program being developed by SEC and AHS will lower this burden for thousands of coastal Alaska households.

We look forward to this program and AML strongly supports the SEC-AHS proposal. Should it be selected, we welcome the opportunity to partner with them to serve households along Alaska's coast.

Sincerely,

Nils Andreassen
Executive Director