

March 16, 2024

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



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 Ground Truth Alaska 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) We strongly believe that their *Accelerating Clean Energy Savings in Alaska's Coastal Communities Program* (ACES - AK) will help catalyze critical rural energy improvements, lower homeowners' heating costs, and dramatically reducing carbon emissions.

Ground Truth Alaska (known as Ground Truth Trekking) is a 501(c)(3) educational nonprofit founded in 2007, which seeks to advance public understanding and engagement in climate change, wilderness, energy, hazards, and natural resource issues in Alaska. Ground Truth Alaska is assisting this project by offering technical expertise and utility and data support. As a technical advisor to Analysis North, I personally assist with the backend data that is integral to the heat pump calculator built by Analysis North as well as other energy data analysis.

Ground Truth Alaska believes strongly in the need to decarbonize and lower the costs of space heating. The majority of coastal Alaska's communities are economically disadvantaged. Weighed down by some of the nation's highest heating and electricity costs, many households spend over 50% of their incomes on heat alone. The ACES – AK Program being developed by SEC and AHS will lower this burden for thousands of lower to modest income coastal Alaska families. With decades of combined experience in the spaces of economic development and beneficial electrification, SEC and AHS are poised to better the lives of Alaska residents while meeting the goals of the CPRG program.

I look forward to this new home energy education and financial incentive program and Ground Truth Alaska strongly supports the SEC - AHS proposal. I welcome the opportunity to partner with them to serve households along Alaska's coast. Please include me as an advisor on your newly developed ACES-AK Advisory Committee.

Sincerely,

Erin McKittrick

Director and Analyst, Ground Truth Alaska

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