



COLD CLIMATE

HOUSING RESEARCH CENTER

March 18, 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 CCHRC, 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 reduce carbon emissions.

The Cold Climate Housing Research Center is a private non-profit corporation that promotes sustainable, durable, healthy building technologies in the Circumpolar North. Our research includes product development and testing, policy analysis, energy efficiency research and deployment and public education. We also design and demonstrate prototype homes for rural Alaska that match the climate, resources, culture, and economy of individual communities. We work closely with government agencies, tribal entities, for-profit and nonprofit organizations to build better housing, and are supported through grants and private donations.

CCHRC believes strongly in the need to decarbonize and lower the costs of space heating. Many coastal Alaska 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.

We look forward to this new home energy education and financial incentive program and CCHRC strongly supports the SEC - AHS proposal. We welcome the opportunity to partner with them to serve households along Alaska's coast.

Respectfully,

Mindy O'Neill, Executive Director
Cold Climate Housing Research Center

CCHRC Internet Web Site: <http://www.cchrc.org>

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