



March 14, 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 the Alaska Vocational Technical Center (AVTEC), 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, while dramatically reducing carbon emissions.

The AVTEC mission is to train Alaskans for work in current and emerging industries in Alaska. Residential heat pump installation and maintenance is the latest addition to our current Refrigeration program. Through a partnership with the City of Seward, AVTEC was able to expand programming to include training in the emerging heat pump technology, secure equipment for students to have hands on experience, and provide professional development for our subject matter expert instructor to learn how to install, maintain and teach the new technology. AVTEC would assist this project by offering technical expertise, training for workforce development, and assisting with community outreach. Currently our program is offered in Seward but there is a possibility through collaboration and shared resources, this training could be portable. AVTEC would be excited to fulfill the role of preparing a workforce to install and maintain this energy improvement technology in homes across Alaska.

AVTEC believes strongly in the need to decarbonize and lower the costs of space heating. Most of coastal Alaska's communities are economically disadvantaged. Weighed down by some of the nation's highest heating and electricity costs, many of these families 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 lower to modest income coastal Alaska households. With decades of combined experience in the spaces of economic development and beneficial electrification, these respected organizations are poised to better the lives of thousands 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 AVTEC 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,  
Cathy LeCompte, Division Director  
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