



KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH

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Office of the Borough Manager

March 29, 2024

Robert Venables, Executive Director
Southeast Conference
9360 Glacier Highway, Suite 201
Juneau, AK 99801

Subject: 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,

I hope this letter finds you well. On behalf of the Ketchikan Gateway Borough, 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.

The Ketchikan Gateway Borough 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.

We look forward to this new home energy education and financial incentive program and the Ketchikan Gateway Borough strongly supports the SEC - AHS proposal. We welcome the opportunity to support SEC and AHS to serve households along Alaska's coast.

Yours sincerely,

Ruben Duran
Borough Manager
Ketchikan Gateway Borough