

COPPER RIVER RECORD

Community newspaper for the Copper Valley

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May 7, 2008

Governor Sarah Palin, Office of the Governor

P.O. Box 110001

Juneau, Alaska 99811-0001

Dear Governor Palin:

We are writing to express our strong support for the appropriations in SB 221 that will increase the ability of Copper Valley Electric Association to provide service to its members in Valdez and the Copper Valley and move our region towards clean, renewable, economically stable hydro power.

Our co-op delivers power as efficiently as any utility in the state, but the price of delivered diesel has long driven up the cost of generated power, hurting area businesses and residents and driving away enterprises which would otherwise be viable here.

CVEA has a proven record of service to its customers. Their co-generation plant heat sales to PetroStar have leveraged against the cost of diesel to keep consumer costs as low as possible. The conservative CVEA board has made every conceivable good business decision to preserve our power infrastructure and keep the costs of power affordable.

Now CVEA and its members need the State of Alaska to invest in our region—and we are certain this investment will pay off in future energy independence and long-term growth in our economy—a net benefit to the State.

These requests together move us toward a system of nearly 100% hydroelectric generation with necessary backup capacity for transmission-line emergencies.

Please approve the Allison Lake License Application Appropriation of \$1,000,000 (page 38, line 20); the Intertie Construction Cost Recovery of \$1,500,000 (page 38, line 28) which is a long-promised payback for the studies and pre-construction costs incurred on the State's behalf by CVEA 1992-1996; the matching funds for the Glennallen Diesel Plant upgrade of \$2,000,000 (page 38, line 24); and the replacement of the Valdez Diesel Plant Substation power transformer at \$500,000 (page 38, line 32).

Sincerely,

Mary and Jim Odden, owners, *Copper River Record*

Email cc: Representative John Harris; Senator Gene Therriault