

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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Senator Cathy Giessel Senate District P

March 28, 2012

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street NE
Washington, D.C., 20426

Reference: Susitna-Watana Hydroelectric Project, Docket Number P-14241

Dear Sirs,

I am writing in **support** of the Susitna-Watana Hydroelectric Project.

I urge expedient completion of the environmental review and approval for this sustainable energy infrastructure project.

Hydroelectric energy is stable and reliable, and provides a multi-generational power supply, as evidenced by the many hydroelectric dams located today in Alaska, built 100 years ago. The 1991 Bradley Lake hydropower project is a more recent example of the positive impact of hydroelectric energy projects.

Energy supply in Alaska's Arctic environment is a basic human safety need. The Susitna-Watana project will diversify Alaska's energy supply and achieve a 50% renewable energy goal set by policy makers.

The Susitna-Watana project will also provide economic benefits in the form of jobs and, through lowered energy cost, broadened business potential and diversification. In fact, there are opportunities to improve the wildlife habitat in the area as well. Management of river flows has demonstrated positive effects on wild salmon runs.

I urge FERC to expediently complete the environmental review and approval for the Susitna-Watana Hydroelectric Project, Docket Number P-14241.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cathy Giessel".
Cathy Giessel