



REPRESENTATIVE CATHY MUÑOZ

January 17, 2015

Ms. Kimberly Bose, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street NE
Washington, DC 20426

RE: Comments and Letter of Support for Juneau Hydropower Inc. FERC P-13563-003
Sweetheart Lake Hydroelectric Project

Dear Secretary Bose,

The Federal Energy and Regulatory Commission recently issued a *Notice Of Intent To Prepare Environmental Impact Statement And Soliciting Comments, And Final Recommendations, Terms And Conditions, And Prescriptions*. I would like to make the following comments that are in addition to my letter of support for the Sweetheart Lake Hydroelectric Facility made on February 8, 2013.

In my experience the management and directors of Juneau Hydropower, Inc. have reached out to agencies, community organizations, and interested parties with openness, transparency, and willingness to engage and study all environmental aspects of the hydropower development in a collaborative manner. Their development and environmental plan, as a result of this engaged process, will likely increase our local hatchery's returning sockeye run at Sweetheart Creek. This is but one example of how the folks of Juneau Hydropower have sought to develop a hydropower project incorporating our shared community values.

Another positive aspect is that Juneau Hydropower has used local investors and private investment to develop this project without federal, state or local subsidies or funding. This is important because the State of Alaska State Energy Policy calls out for the private development of our energy resources. Our federal, state, and local government do not have the financial resources to subsidize large scale energy developments. Juneau Hydropower has set an environmental, financial and community value example for other Alaska utilities and energy developers.

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Juneau Hydropower, upon construction will generate up to 80 family wage construction jobs and create numerous direct and indirect support service jobs supporting local air carriers, shipping companies and construction related activities. The community of Juneau welcomes these jobs and the private investment into providing abundant local renewable energy resources that will provide energy security with sustainable, clean and stable electricity for our community for decades to come. The leadership of Juneau hydropower has integrity, reputation, sensitivity and personal commitment necessary to protect our environment while carefully developing this hydropower resource.

I ask the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to ensure that it diligently and timely proceeds with the Environmental Impact Statement process to provide Juneau Hydropower with its FERC license to begin construction at its earliest convenience to bring the benefits that this community hydropower project will deliver to Juneau now and for generations to follow.

Sincerely,



Cathy Munoz,
Representative, District 31