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January 31, 2013

Ms. Jennifer Hill
Chief, Northwest Branch
Division of Hydropower Licensing
888 First Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20426

Dear Ms. Hill:

As a long-time supporter of renewable energy development, I am writing to offer my support for timely federal consideration of a proposed hydroelectric project in the Juneau area of Southeast Alaska.

I understand that Juneau Hydropower Inc. has applied to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) for a license to proceed with the 20-megawatt Sweetheart Lake hydroelectric project. Given the sky-high cost of diesel-fueled electrical generation throughout Southeast Alaska, where electricity currently can cost more than 60 cents per kilowatt hour in a number of smaller villages, I strongly support efforts to develop lower-cost renewable energy resources wherever it is economically and environmentally sound to do so.

Sweetheart Lake, about 30 miles south of downtown Juneau and only 8 miles from the Snettisham Transmission Line, has long been recognized as a viable source of hydroelectric power for the Panhandle, most recently as part of the Alaska Energy Authority's Southeast Alaska Integrated Resource Plan. I encourage FERC and all of the federal and Alaska State agencies that are currently studying the applicant's license request to devote sufficient staff resources to consider and make a decision on the application in a timely manner.

Thank you for your work concerning this project.

Sincerely,



Lisa Murkowski,
U.S. Senator, Alaska

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