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www.kpedd.org

Leadership to enhance, foster and promote economic development

September 28, 2021

Kenai Peninsula Borough
Attn: Clerk's Office
144 N. Binkley Street
Soldotna, AK 99669

RE: Kenai Solar Farm Project

Dear Mayor Pierce and KPB Assembly Members,

I am writing to express my support for the proposed Kenai Solar Farm project. This project aligns with the Kenai Peninsula Economic Development District (KPEDD) mission statement, "To attract, grow, and retain business and industry on the Kenai Peninsula that will enhance the vitality and quality of life in our communities." The Kenai Solar Farm brings new industry, jobs and private investment dollars to the Kenai Peninsula Borough (KPB) and supports our local businesses by stabilizing electricity prices.

The Kenai Solar Farm project is estimated to create 40-60 direct construction jobs which will be filled by the local Kenai Peninsula workforce. Solar construction jobs include general labor, equipment operators, electricians. These above minimum wage jobs pay between \$20-\$100 per hour and new laborers will receive solar installation training on the job. The project will also create additional local job demand for support services such as equipment rental, material delivery and surveying. The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that "Solar Installers" is the fifth fastest growing job occupation in the U.S and I support bringing this occupation growth to the Kenai Peninsula Borough.

High energy prices are often cited as one of the leading deterrents for starting a new business in the region. The cost of utility scale solar has dropped 80% over the last decade and provides an opportunity for low-cost energy. Utility scale solar projects sign long term (20-30 year) contracts which will help stabilize electricity prices, supporting business retention and new business growth in the region. The Kenai Solar Farm is projected to meet 6.5% of Homer Electric Associations (HEA) energy demand, offering meaningful energy diversification and price competition to the market. Finally, the project is paid for by private investors instead of utility co-



Alaska Regional Development Organization (ARDOR)
The State of Alaska Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development certified KPEDD as an ARDOR in 1989.

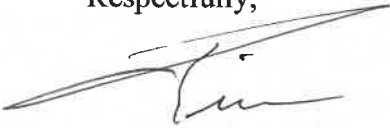


Economic Development District (EDD)
The U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (EDA) recognized KPEDD as an Economic Development District in 1988.

op members. The private investor takes the up-front capital risk while providing utility members (residents and businesses) with energy price certainty through a pre-agreed contract.

I support the Kenai Solar Farm project as I think it will help grow business and industries in the Kenai Peninsula Borough and enhance the vitality of our communities. Please feel free to reach out if you have questions.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tim', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

Tim Dillon
Executive Director
Kenai Peninsula Economic Development District (KPEDD)
Tim@kpedd.org