**Utility Board Candidate Questionnaire**

**2020**

The Alaska Center envisions a thriving, just, and sustainable Alaska for future generations.

We engage, empower, and elect Alaskans to stand up for our clean air and water, healthy communities, and a strong democracy.

*About this questionnaire:* The Alaska Center thanks you for taking time to complete this questionnaire. Your responses will be an important factor in our endorsement consideration. Your answers to this questionnaire are private and will not be shared publicly. Please return the form electronically to [jennymarie@akcenter.org](mailto:jennymarie@akcenter.org)

***Due Date:* May 11 or before.**

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1. Do you support the aspirational goal of reaching 100% clean energy by 2050? What steps can your utility take and what policies would you support in order to reach such a goal?

**Answer --** Yes, I do support the aspirational goal of 100% clean energy by 2050. Steps to take? The Board and senior leadership should build into the strategic planning a long-term focus on incorporating expanding renewable power components to the overall generation portfolio. Board and senior leadership should set a tone for CEA that emphasizes the importance of transitioning to renewables. The board and staff should incorporate into any project analysis concerns for long-term environmental impacts and community benefits. The board and staff should evaluate all options for build=out of additional renewable energy capacity, such as a potential expansion of Fire Island capacity or other wind developments.

1. How can your utility better partner with local municipalities and boroughs to achieve increases in renewable energy, clean transportation, and energy efficiency in Anchorage?

**Answer—**1) Work with MOA to develop plans and policies for incentivizing renewable power expansion and clean energy technologies. 2) Work with the members to support IPP renewable power installations throughout the CEA service area. 3) Work through the RRC to establish policies and rules that promote more efficient power transmission across the railbely; thereby, driving costs down throughout the railbelt as communities seek the lowest cost / most reliable power. Clean Transportation -- Support expansion and installation of charging infrastructure for electrified vehicles, Work with consumer groups and RCA and other Railbelt Utilities to set energy charges that will promote expansion of EV chargers for electric vehicles across the borough / Railbelt.

1. Do you support a regional approach to energy generation and consumption on the railbelt?

**Answer –** I very much support a regional approach, or maybe better stated, a Railbelt approach to power generation. SB 123, along with the currently-forming RRC (Railbelt Reliability Council), are very good first steps toward moving toward an economic dispatch model for power from Homer to Fairbanks, a model that will drive the system toward more efficient generation, transmission, and consumption by making certain capital is spent and used wisely for new generation / transmission. Currently, there way too many independent actors expending public and ratepayer monies for generation assets that might not in the economic best interest of the rate payer / community.

1. Currently the State’s Net Energy Metering regulation allows a utility to cap participation when electricity from Net Metering customers reaches 1.5 percent of the utilities peak load. Are you supportive of raising the net-metering cap? Why or why not?

**Answer—**I am quite new to the details around this issue. While I do not fully understand all the various commercial, operation, economic factors that would drive a utility (utilities) to oppose raising the Cap, in principle, I would be supportive of raising the CAP as high as operationally / economically/ possible.

1. The Lower Eklutna River Dam has blocked the Eklutna River for 88 years, but in 2018 that dam was removed. While the removal of the dam is a big step forward, it is only the first stage in restoring the Eklutna to a fully functioning river. Do you support returning water to the Eklutna River before the current mitigation agreement of 2032 in order to see a return of healthy salmon populations? If yes, what is your path forward for doing so?

**Answer --** Restoration of salmon runs and populations is a worthwhile goal and in principle, I would surely support such. As to Eklutna issue, I do not know enough now, however, about how such an early restoration would impact consumer costs and power generation. But yes, I am strongly in favor of trying to find a solution that will permit early restoration of the stream and to facilitate and enhance salmon restoration.

1. Have you read our expected [Code of Conduct (attached),](https://docs.google.com/document/d/15IRjvNtHEZGyl5AYt5lmtvsTkwRtRivrqe7-HViVWFs/edit?usp=sharing) and can you adhere to these expected behaviors? Yes I read them and ABSOLUTELY Yes I will adhere to them.