



# ACE COALITION

PO BOX 2339  
Wrangell, Alaska 99929  
(360) 961-4286

8/23/2010

Dear Alaska Voter,

The Alaska Canada Energy (ACE) Coalition prepared and submitted a Renewable Energy Development questionnaire to all major candidates in the Senatorial, Congress, Gubernatorial, and Lieutenant Governor Races on soliciting candidate thoughts on attracting investment into Alaska and creating jobs. All major candidates were invited to participate and all candidates were informed that their answers would be submitted to the public unedited. Our questionnaire was designed to determine candidate viewpoint on renewable energy development and transmission issues that are of mutual interest with the Alaska electorate.

The ACE coalition would like to share with you the responses from candidates who felt this was an important enough issue to provide detailed answers on. We encourage you to read these candidate responses and use their responses in your decision making when casting your vote in the August 24, 2010 Alaska primary.

Our questionnaire and candidate responses are being sent to our e-mail membership that contains many of the elected leaders in Alaska as well as renewable energy industry leaders and Alaskan citizens with an interest in renewable energy.

The ACE Coalition is a nonprofit membership organization dedicated to energy relationships with our British Columbia neighbors. ACE Coalition has built relationships across borders with First Nations and Canadian legislative leaders with the express purpose of building an electrical intertie that will be our connection to our future in energy production. Our board of directors has region leaders and energy developers sharing this vision. If you are interested in joining the ACE Coalition or would like to learn more, please visit our website at [www.acecoalition.com](http://www.acecoalition.com)

If you have any questions or comments regarding our questionnaire please contact me at the e-mail or at the phone numbers below or in the alternative contact President Ernie Christian at (907) 305-0201.

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## **Lisa Murkowski (R) Candidate for U.S. Senate**

Are you in favor of creating a renewable energy development industry in Southeast Alaska that will require the permitting, construction and operation of a Southeast Alaska-British Columbia transmission line intertie so that Alaska can market Southeast Alaska's surplus electricity to the North American Electrical Grid?

**I strongly support the construction of renewable energy projects in Southeast Alaska, and strongly support Southeast Alaska's ability to export that energy to Canada and the Lower 48, provided that local residents are simultaneously able to benefit from lower-cost electricity. Southeast Alaska has tremendous potential in renewable energy, and the Southeast intertie project offers a great opportunity to strengthen our economy and reduce regional energy prices.**

Do you favor both private and public investment in developing renewable energy in hydropower, tidal, and wind in the Tongass National Forest at economies of scale to create meaningful jobs, economic development and increase our tax base and prosperity for the region?

**Yes, I support both public and private investment in renewable energy projects in the Tongass region. I've sponsored legislation to provide federal funding for the Southeast intertie project, authored a federal renewable energy grants program that was included in the 2007 energy bill, and most recently introduced legislation to provide federal assistance for hydropower development in Alaska and other states. Going forward, my commitment to renewable energy development in the Tongass region will remain as strong as ever.**

Are you in favor of improving and strengthening cross border relations with British Columbia and Canada elected officials for developing renewable energy for mutual energy security, reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and lowering our national dependence on foreign oil?

**Of course; it's always good to work with our neighbors to the east, especially on the goals listed here. Improved relations with British Columbia and Canada in general will help facilitate a number of projects that are critical to our state's future – not only renewable energy generation, but also a railroad extension and a natural gas pipeline.**

Are you in favor of supporting funding for the Southeast Intertie to connect Southeast communities to a region wide grid with a connection to the North American electrical grid to market surplus energy or to import renewable energy in emergencies or disasters such as earthquakes?

**Yes, I strongly support the intertie and, even in the face of daunting federal budget difficulties, have already been working to secure appropriations to help make it a reality. Congress authorized considerable funding this project, and while huge federal deficits will require us to seek those funds in stages, I believe the intertie is critically important to the future of Southeast Alaska.**

Who do you think should take the lead in the renewable energy development and transmission line development?

**The State of Alaska should take the lead, with assistance from the Federal Government where appropriate. One example of federal assistance that I consider appropriate is the renewable energy grants program that I authored in 2007. It is difficult to secure congressional funding for any of our priorities right now, but rest assured, I will continue to work with you to facilitate both renewable energy and transmission line development.**



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### **Bill Walker (R) Candidate for Governor of Alaska**

Are you in favor of creating a renewable energy development industry in Southeast Alaska that will require the permitting, construction and operation of a Southeast Alaska-British Columbia transmission line intertie so that Alaska can market Southeast Alaska's surplus electricity to the North American Electrical Grid?

**Yes, I am pleased to see the amount of hydroelectric energy currently available in Southeast. I would be in favor of providing additional infrastructure to allow for a larger customer base which would reduce the cost of power for Southeast consumers.**

Do you favor both private and public investment in developing renewable energy in hydropower, tidal, and wind in the Tongass National Forest at economies of scale to create meaningful jobs, economic development and increase our tax base and prosperity for the region?

**Yes, I am in favor of renewable power that makes economic sense and reduces power cost and stabilizes long term cost of energy.**

Are you in favor of improving and strengthening cross border relations with British Columbia and Canada elected officials for developing renewable energy for mutual energy security, reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and lowering our national dependence on foreign oil?

**Yes.**

Are you in favor of supporting funding for the Southeast Intertie to connect Southeast communities to a region wide grid with a connection to the North American electrical grid to market surplus energy or to import renewable energy in emergencies or disasters such as earthquakes?

**In general yes, but I would have to look at the cost benefit ratio before I could be sure.**

Who do you think should take the lead in the renewable energy development and transmission line development?

**The Alaska Energy Authority or a Southeast based energy co-op if appropriate.**



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## **Mead Treadwell (R) Candidate for Lieutenant Governor**

Are you in favor of creating a renewable energy development industry in Southeast Alaska that will require the permitting, construction and operation of a Southeast Alaska-British Columbia transmission line intertie so that Alaska can market Southeast Alaska's surplus electricity to the North American Electrical Grid?

**Yes. I support pursuing this concept for its potential to do three things if the economics are right: Create jobs. Expand the availability and lower the cost of electric power for Alaskans. Create a new export industry for the state. I have only learned about this idea since my campaign began late this spring. I want to understand it further, but in talks around Alaska, I have pointed to it as an exciting new prospect for Alaska that deserves statewide attention. In other parts of the state, surplus power potential exists without a near capability to export into a major grid, and it would be good to see Southeast Alaska lead the state into new export activities.**

Do you favor both private and public investment in developing renewable energy in hydropower, tidal, and wind in the Tongass National Forest at economies of scale to create meaningful jobs, economic development and increase our tax base and prosperity for the region?

**Yes, in principle. Alaska has other examples of public investment to help finance infrastructure (roads, power interties, rails, ports, and telecom) and stimulate exports. (The road from Red Dog to the coast comes to mind.) Done right, the public role is not a costly subsidy as much as a method of providing private investors the time to achieve economic returns.**

Are you in favor of improving and strengthening cross border relations with British Columbia and Canada elected officials for developing renewable energy for mutual energy security, reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and lowering our national dependence on foreign oil?

**Yes. I have extensive experience in building trade ties and scientific cooperation with our circumpolar neighbors, including Canada. With work, I believe this kind of project can be perceived as beneficial to both nations.**

Are you in favor of supporting funding for the Southeast Intertie to connect Southeast communities to a region wide grid with a connection to the North American electrical grid to market surplus energy or to import renewable energy in emergencies or disasters such as earthquakes?

**In principle, yes, depending on terms, feasibility, payback potential -- the same criteria I've used in the private sector. For public funds to be involved, the projects require community support.**

Who do you think should take the lead in the renewable energy development and transmission line development?

**Given the potential of this idea, I would hope the Governor (or, if so designated) the Lt. Governor would step in as a convener. There are several eligible players in the state's structure, and ultimately Alaska state financing, land management, permitting and power and economic development entities will need to work together. Southeast Alaska communities must be at the table. Federal entities, such as the USDA and the USFS should be invited to the table. There are several methods to identify and attract private leaders if enough have not yet stepped forward. Collaboration can make Alaska energy cost competitive for both Alaskans and in the North American market place.**