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January 6, 2021

Submitted Electronically to Docket No: FS-2020-0013 and via Email

United States Forest Service  
Attn: Gregory C. Smith, Director  
Lands and Realty Management  
1400 Independence Ave., SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250

Re: Request for Comment Period Extension on the USDA Forest Service Proposed Directive on Operating Plans and Agreements for Powerline Facilities; 85 *Fed. Reg.* 79462 (December 10, 2020)

Dear Mr. Smith,

Alaska Power Association (APA) respectfully requests that the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service extend the deadline to submit comments on the proposed directive, *Operating Plans and Agreements for Powerline Facilities*, 85 *Fed. Reg.* 79462 (December 10, 2020). The Forest Service has requested that comments be received by January 11, 2021. APA supports the request from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) that the deadline be extended by 45 days, through and including February 25, 2021.

APA is the statewide trade association representing electric utilities in Alaska. Our members provide power to Alaskans from Utqiagvik to Unalaska, throughout the Interior and Southcentral, and down the Inside Passage.

The proposed directive provides guidance for the development, review, and approval of operating plans and agreements that address activities within the linear right-of-way for the powerline facilities and on National Forest Service land adjacent to either side of the right-of-way. Due to the abundance of federal land in Alaska, this directive is very important to our members.

We agree with NRECA's reasons for granting additional time to file public comments. Additional time is needed to review the proposed directive and understand how it could impact our members and their consumers.

For these reasons, APA respectfully requests that the Forest Service extend the comment period for 45 days. This extra time will allow APA and our members to fully review the proposed directive and offer more thorough and thoughtful comments.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this important matter.

Respectfully submitted:

Crystal Enkvist,  
Executive Director