



612 W. Willoughby Ave., Suite B
P.O. Box 21989, Juneau, AK 99802
Phone (907) 586-4360
www.seconference.org
Email info@seconference.org

SOUTHEAST ALASKA REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

October 13, 2022

To: Chris Reitan, Craig City School District, creitan@craigschools.com

Congratulations on the success of your proposal "Craig High School Biomass Project," which has received partial funding through USDA's Southeast Alaska Sustainable Strategy (SASS) initiative. Your project is recognized for building local capacity and supporting diverse and sustainable economies in Southeast Alaska.

Southeast Conference is excited to be a part of this game-changing shift represented by the SASS initiative and OneUSDA approach to partnering in economic development in our Tongass communities. We look forward to working with your organization to develop and implement your investment proposal. The first step will be to work through a project management and planning tool (attached) that will provide a common understanding of the proposed goals, activities, timelines and expected impacts.

Southeast Conference's mission is to support activities, like your proposal, that promote strong economies, healthy communities, and a quality environment in Southeast Alaska. As the state designated Alaska Regional Development Organization (ARDOR) and the federally recognized Economic Development District for the region, we are committed to providing your organization with the fullest support possible to achieve the stated goals in the original proposal and find synergies that will ensure success and provide the broadest regional impact and collaboration possible.

Exact funding amounts for the projects funded through Southeast Conference are still in flux, with specifics to be worked out through the project management and planning tool and meetings where we will finalize the scope of work, timelines, and budget. We are all committed to supporting capacity building and will be tracking of impact metrics for all SASS projects. While I will be involved and available for questions, SEC Deputy Director Dan Lesh will be your primary point of contact.

On behalf of our regional partnership of the OneUSDA agencies (USFS, USDA Rural Development, and NRCS) and our regional partners at Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska, and Sealaska Corporation's subsidiary Spruce Root, congratulations on your successful proposal and thank you for your efforts to build a stronger, more diverse, and sustainable economy in your community and region.

Robert Venables
Executive Director