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March 16, 2011

Representative Kyle Johansen
Finance Committee Co-chair Bill Thomas
Finance Committee Co-chair Bill Stoltze

Dear Representatives Johansen, Thomas, and Stoltze:

Alaska Power Association (APA) strongly supports House Joint Resolution 20 and appreciates your efforts to put the Alaska State Legislature on record as opposing the federal administration's unreasonable efforts regarding implementation of roadless rule regulation for the Tongass and Chugach National Forests.

Alaska Power Association is the statewide trade association for the electric utilities that supply power to more than a half-million Alaskans from Barrow to Adak, through the Interior and Southcentral, and down the Inside Passage.

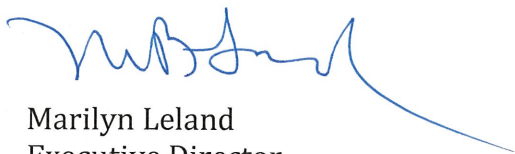
As your resolution articulates, the requirement for the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture to personally sign permits for hydroelectric projects within roadless designated areas of the Tongass and Chugach will severely impact or outright kill hydro efforts at the same time the White House is advocating for the development of renewable resources.

Preliminary permits issued by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission are for a three-year period. Considerable field study is required to perfect such permits but, without roadless access permission, project applicants cannot get into the field and their preliminary permits could well expire. Hydro projects will not get built, resulting in continued dependence on diesel generation that exceeds 50 cents per kilowatt hour in many rural communities.

The current roadless rule impediments present an illogical, Catch 22 situation for Alaska utilities and the residents they serve.

APA and its members urge the legislature to pass HJR 20 expeditiously to send a clear message to the federal government that its roadless rule position is misguided and costly to our State. Washington, D.C. cannot have it both ways on renewable energy development.

Sincerely,



Marilyn Leland
Executive Director