

# Alaska State Legislature

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## Representative Kyle Johansen House District 1

HJR 20 – "Urging the President of the United States, the United States Congress, and the Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture not to implement protection of inventoried roadless areas under the "roadless rule" or otherwise restrict the development of necessary hydroelectric projects in the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest."

The current version of the Roadless Area Conservation Rule, "Roadless Rule", will have an adverse impact on potential hydro-power and renewable energy projects in Southeast Alaska. Construction of access and maintenance roads or transmission tower placement would become exceedingly difficult with the continuation of this policy.

The Obama administration has set a goal of having 25% of the energy generated in the United States come from renewable, "green", resources by 2025. Alaska, through the Energy Policy passed by the legislature in 2010, has a goal of 50% by 2025. The implementation of the Roadless Rule in the Tongass National Forest will create additional hurdles for the permitting and construction of hydro-power projects and their connectivity to electrified grids through interties and will not help the State or Federal Governments towards their goals.

This resolution will send a message to Washington, stating that Alaska is committed to both responsible conservation of our forests and developing renewable energy projects.