

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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DISTRICT 8

House Joint Resolution 26

AK LNG PROJECT WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Sponsor Statement

House Joint Resolution 26 urges the United States Congress to appropriate the \$20,000,000 in federal workforce development funds authorized under the *Alaska Natural Gas Pipeline Act* (15 U.S.C. 720–720n), to support training programs for Alaska residents in preparation for the development, construction, and operation of the Alaska Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Project.

Congress authorized this funding specifically to support workforce training for Alaska Natives, rural residents, and dislocated workers for participation in Alaska’s natural gas infrastructure. Despite that authorization, the funds have never been appropriated.

The resolution further encourages Alaska LNG project sponsors and contractors to prioritize hiring trained Alaskans and working with small, in-state businesses. This goal aligns with Section 720j of the *Alaska Natural Gas Pipeline Act*, which promotes small business participation in project contracts, as well as with Alaska’s own framework established under Chapter 14, SLA 2014. That law expanded the Alaska Gasline Development Corporation’s mission and added tax incentives under AS 43.55.019(a) to promote private investment in training and workforce education.

Training infrastructure already exists across Alaska through regional training centers and apprenticeship programs. However, many of these programs lack the funding necessary to launch or expand large-scale efforts in time to meet the labor needs of this project. Without immediate investment, the state risks relying on an out-of-state workforce, which would result in fewer long-term economic benefits for Alaska.

HJR 26 reinforces the state’s long-standing support for in-state labor and economic development tied to natural resource projects. Appropriating these federal funds will help ensure that Alaska’s workforce is ready and able to participate meaningfully in the Alaska LNG Project.