

# Alaska State Legislature

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*Session:*

State Capitol, Room 114  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182  
*Phone:* (907) 465-3424  
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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 both hydro-power and renewable energy projects, as well as the development of potential mines in Southeast Alaska. These industries are essential to the continued well-being and economic success of residents in our region.

The Obama administration 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, set 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.

Over 3,500 people are directly employed by mines in Alaska and the direct and indirect payroll from mining was over \$350M last year. With an average wage of \$80K per year, some of the state's highest paying jobs are in the mining industry and keeping these jobs and professionals in Alaska should be a priority for the governing body.

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

# FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA  
2011 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

1  
CSHJR 20(ENE)  
3/23/11

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H S C E M C N r

## Expenditures/Revenues ( )

	FY 2012	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017
OPERATING EXPENDITURES							
S							
C							
S							
E							
C							
M							
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

## CAPITAL EXPENDITURES

CHANGE IN REVENUES							
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## FUND SOURCE ( )

TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2011) cost

POSITIONS							

Why this fiscal note differs from previous version  
Initial Version

S M M  
E  
M

## FISCAL NOTE #1

**STATE OF ALASKA**  
**2011 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

**BILL NO. CSHJR 20(ENE)**

## Analysis

This fiscal note has zero impact on the Legislative Affairs Agency.

**CS FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 20(ENE)**

**IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA**

**TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION**

**BY THE HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON ENERGY**

**Offered: 3/23/11**

**Referred: Resources**

**Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES JOHANSEN, Thomas, Stoltze, Peggy Wilson, Muñoz, Johnson, Chenault, Dick, Lynn**

**A RESOLUTION**

1 **Urging the President of the United States, the United States Congress, and the Secretary**  
2 **of the United States Department of Agriculture not to implement protection of**  
3 **inventoried roadless areas under the "roadless rule" or otherwise restrict the**  
4 **development of necessary hydroelectric projects in the Tongass National Forest and the**  
5 **Chugach National Forest.**

6 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

7 **WHEREAS** inventoried roadless areas, as defined in 36 C.F.R. 294.11, constitute  
8 approximately 57 percent of the acreage in the Tongass National Forest; and

9 **WHEREAS** the United States Congress has designated an additional 35 percent of the  
10 acreage in the Tongass National Forest as wilderness; and

11 **WHEREAS** there is an extensive system of federally protected areas in the state; and

12 **WHEREAS**, on May 28, 2010, the Secretary of the United States Department of  
13 Agriculture issued Secretary's Memorandum 1042-155 that reserves to the Secretary the  
14 authority to approve or disapprove road construction or reconstruction and the cutting, sale, or  
15 removal of timber in areas identified in the set of inventoried roadless area maps contained in

1 volume 2 of the Forest Service Roadless Area Conservation Final Environmental Impact  
2 Statement, dated November 2000; and

3 **WHEREAS** the Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture has  
4 approved only seven projects under the authority reserved in Secretary's Memorandum 1042-  
5 155; and

6 **WHEREAS** 14 of the 15 hydroelectric projects in the Tongass National Forest and  
7 Chugach National Forest are subject to the protection of inventoried roadless areas under 36  
8 C.F.R. 294.10 - 294.18 ("roadless rule") and will require approval by the Secretary of the  
9 United States Department of Agriculture; and

10 **WHEREAS** failure of the Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture to  
11 approve the hydroelectric projects in the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National  
12 Forest would jeopardize the approval of necessary preliminary permits by the Federal Energy  
13 Regulatory Commission because, without the Secretary of Agriculture's approval, the  
14 hydroelectric projects would not be able to proceed with the field studies and planning that are  
15 required for a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission preliminary permit; and

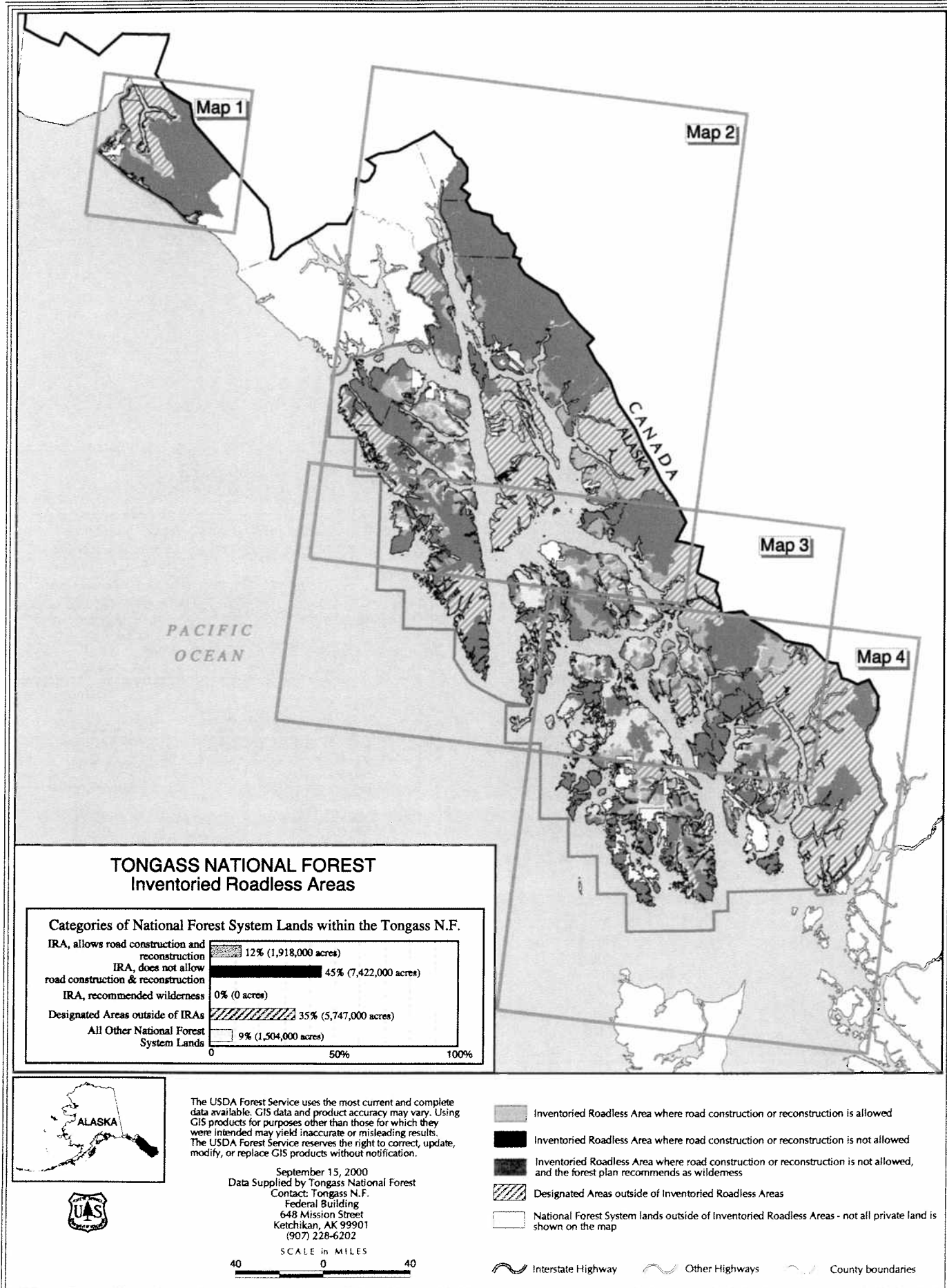
16 **WHEREAS** the inability to develop hydroelectric projects and construct power lines  
17 to bring electricity to communities in the state will result in continued diesel power generation  
18 that emits pollutants into the environment; and

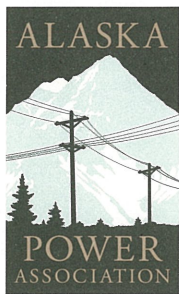
19 **WHEREAS** the protection of inventoried roadless areas under the "roadless rule" in  
20 36 C.F.R. 294.10 - 294.18 and the inability to produce and distribute hydro-generated  
21 electricity will adversely affect communities in the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach  
22 National Forest and will thwart the policy of the state, as stated in sec. 1, ch. 82, SLA 2010, to  
23 generate 50 percent of the energy in the state from renewable sources; and

24 **WHEREAS** the President of the United States has pledged to embrace and encourage  
25 the development of renewable energy sources and has set a goal of having 25 percent of the  
26 energy generated in the United States come from renewable energy resources by 2025;

27 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the President of the  
28 United States, the United States Congress, and the Secretary of the United States Department  
29 of Agriculture not to implement protection of inventoried roadless areas under 36 C.F.R.  
30 294.10 - 294.14 or otherwise restrict the development of necessary hydroelectric projects in  
31 the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest.

1       **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of  
2 the United States; the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and  
3 President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Tom Vilsack, United States Secretary of  
4 Agriculture; the Honorable John Boehner, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the  
5 Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Minority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives; the  
6 Honorable Harry Reid, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Mitch McConnell,  
7 Minority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Jeff Bingaman, Chair of the Energy and  
8 Natural Resources Committee of the U.S. Senate; and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the  
9 Honorable Mark Begich, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative,  
10 members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.





Alaska Power Association  
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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.

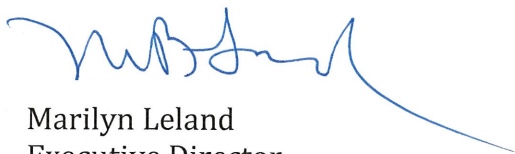
As your resolution articulates, the requirement for the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture to personally sign permits for hydroelectric projects within roadless designated areas of the Tongass and Chugach will severely impact or outright kill hydro efforts at the same time the White House is advocating for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





# ALASKA POWER ASSOCIATION R E S O L U T I O N

## **A Resolution Recommending the Elimination of Impediments to the Development of Hydroelectric Power Projects within National Forests (11-15)**

Government at all levels, electric utilities, and our consumers are embracing development of renewable energy sources for the production of electricity. Renewable energy sources have environmental, economic and social benefits that are well documented. Hydroelectric energy is among the cleanest of all renewable resources and the most cost effective during the long, low-maintenance lives of the projects.

Alaska is blessed with an abundance of hydro resources from its lakes and streams that can be built with minimal environmental impact. Most new hydro development in Alaska replaces costly, finite and less environmentally benign fossil generation fuels, specifically diesel, coal and natural gas.

Special use permits necessary for federal approval of hydro projects within Roadless Rule designated areas of national forests must be individually signed by the Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). In addition to Roadless Rule designation permits, national forest land use plans must be amended to accommodate hydro projects located in designated "back country" areas of a national forest.

Prior rights-of-way, easements and other authorizations issued or managed by the United States Forest Service may need to be modified to not impede the development of otherwise acceptable projects. The foregoing cumbersome federal actions add a year or more to the hydro project approval process at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), seriously jeopardizing the three-year timeframe within which applicants are bound to perfect their FERC permits.

Alaska Power Association urges Alaska's Congressional delegation and their fellow members of Congress, the Governor's Office, the Obama Administration and federal agencies such as USDA and FERC to work collaboratively and expeditiously to eliminate the burdensome and, in some cases, fatal impediments to hydro development caused by the need for the Secretary of Agriculture's personal signature on Roadless Rule designation special use permits and mandatory forest plan amendments, where national forest lands are involved.

APA further urges the highest level of support from the above-mentioned lawmakers and agencies for ensuring that the US Forest Service works cooperatively with project proponents and others to eliminate unnecessary impediments to project development created by prior use authorizations.

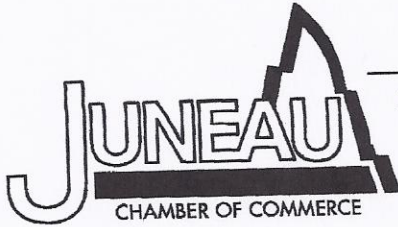
(Adopted Dec. 2010)

### **Association Members**

Alaska Electric and Energy Co-op  
Alaska Electric Light & Power  
Alaska Power & Telephone  
Alaska Railbelt Energy Authority JAA  
Alaska Village Electric Cooperative  
Anchorage Municipal Light & Power  
Aurora Energy  
Barrow Utilities & Electric Co-op  
Chugach Electric Association  
Copper Valley Electric Association  
Copper Valley Telephone Co-op  
Cordova Electric Cooperative  
Doyon Utilities  
City of Galena  
Golden Valley Electric Association  
Homer Electric Association  
INN Electric Cooperative  
Inside Passage Electric Co-op  
Kodiak Electric Association  
Kotzebue Electric Association  
Kwaan Electric Transmission  
Intertie Cooperative  
Matanuska Electric Association  
McGrath Light and Power  
Metlakatla Power & Light  
Middle Kuskokwim Electric Co-op  
Naknek Electric Association  
Nome Joint Utility System  
North Slope Borough  
Nushagak Cooperative  
OTZ Telephone Cooperative  
City of Seward  
Southeast Alaska Power Agency  
Tanalian Electric Cooperative  
Tanana Power Company  
TDX Power  
Unalakleet Valley Electric Co-op  
Yakutat Power

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### A RESOLUTION OF THE JUNEAU CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 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

06-11

**WHEREAS**, inventoried roadless areas, as defined in 36 C.F.R. 294.11, constitute approximately 57 percent of the acreage in the Tongass National Forest, and

**WHEREAS**, the United States Congress has designated an additional 35 percent of the acreage in the Tongass National Forest as wilderness, and

**WHEREAS**, there is an extensive system of federally protected areas in the state, and

**WHEREAS**, on May 28, 2010, the Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture issued Secretary's Memorandum 1042-155 that reserves to the Secretary the authority to approve or disapprove road construction or reconstruction and the cutting, sale, or removal of timber in areas identified in the set of inventoried roadless area maps contained in volume 2 of the Forest Service Roadless Area Conservation Final Environmental Impact Statement, dated November 2000, and

**WHEREAS**, the Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture has approved only seven projects under the authority reserved in Secretary's Memorandum 1042-155, and

**WHEREAS**, 14 of the 15 hydroelectric projects in the Tongass National Forest and Chugach National Forest are subject to the protection of inventoried roadless areas under 36 C.F.R. 294.10 – 294.18 ("roadless rule") and will require approval by the Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture, and

**WHEREAS**, failure of the Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture to approve the hydroelectric projects in the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest would jeopardize the approval of necessary preliminary permits by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission because, without the Secretary of Agriculture's approval, the hydroelectric projects would not be able to proceed with the field studies and planning that are required for a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission preliminary permit, and

**WHEREAS**, the inability to develop hydroelectric projects and construct power lines to bring electricity to communities in the state will result in continued diesel power generation that emits pollutants into the environment, and

**WHEREAS**, the protection of inventoried roadless areas under the "roadless rule" in 36 C.F.R. 294.10 – 294.18 and the inability to produce and distribute hydro-generated electricity will adversely affect communities in the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest and will thwart the Governor's goal of generating 50 percent of the energy in the state from renewable sources, and  
**WHEREAS**, the President of the United States has pledged to embrace and encourage the development of renewable energy sources, and

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Juneau Chamber of Commerce urges 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 36 C.F.R. 294.10 – 294.18 or otherwise restrict the development of necessary hydroelectric projects in the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest.

**COPIES**, of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of the United States; the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Tom Vilsack, United States Secretary of Agriculture; the Honorable John Boehner, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Minority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Harry Reid, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Mitch McConnell, Minority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Jeff Bingaman, Chair of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee of the U.S. Senate; and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Mark Begich, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.

**PASSED AND APPROVED** by the Juneau Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors on the date: March 15, 2011

Cathie Roemmich  
CEO, Juneau Chamber of Commerce Representing nearly 400 Business Members



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Hecla Greens Creek Mining  
Goldbelt, Inc.  
Huna Totem  
Shattuck & Grummett  
Taku Oil  
True North FCU  
UAS  
Wells Fargo Bank of Alaska  
Westmann and Associates

## A RESOLUTION OF THE JUNEAU CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN OPPOSITION OF

### "the Obama Administration's new approach to forest management on the Tongass National Forest"

07-10

**WHEREAS**, the State of Alaska and U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski oppose "the Obama Administration's new approach to forest management on the Tongass National Forest" as described in USDA Secretary Thomas Vilsack's September 3, 2010 letter to Senator Lisa Murkowski and

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Forest Service Alaska Region (USFS) presented an Integrated 5-year Plan for the Tongass National Forest essentially applying a de facto roadless rule on the Tongass NF in contradiction to the USDA Settlement Agreement with the State of Alaska on the roadless rule and

**WHEREAS**, the new 5-year schedule is not consistent with the 2008 Tongass Land Management Plan (TLMP) and is prematurely transitioning commercial timber harvests to young growth forests generally sixty years of age or less and

**WHEREAS**, implementation of the new 5-year schedule and de facto application of the roadless rule on the Tongass will reduce future access to the Tongass NF discouraging private investments for mining, timber, hydro-electric inter-ties and other activities which would help improve the economy and quality of life in Southeast Alaska's forest dependent communities.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Juneau Chamber of Commerce join the State of Alaska and U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski's opposition to the Obama Administration and USDA Secretary's new approach to forest management on the Tongass and U.S. Forest Service five year schedule of activities and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Juneau Chamber of Commerce supports the implementation of the 2008 Tongass Land Management Plan and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, to transmit this Resolution to the Alaska Governor, Alaska Congressional Delegation, Southeast Alaska Legislators, The Southeast Conference, and Juneau Mayor and Assembly.

Record of December 28, 2010 Juneau Chamber Board meeting action:

**PASSED AND APPROVED** by the Juneau Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors on this date: December 28, 2010

Cathie Roemmich, CEO  
Juneau Chamber of Commerce  
At the direction of the Board of Directors and  
Representing nearly 400 Business Members



CITY OF PETERSBURG, ALASKA

RESOLUTION # 1964

**A RESOLUTION URGING ALASKA GOVERNOR PARNELL AND ALASKA'S FEDERAL DELEGATION TO ASSURE THAT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ROADLESS RULE ON ALASKA'S NATIONAL FORESTS DOES NOT HINDER OR PROHIBIT THE DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF HYDRO-ELECTRIC PROJECTS AND ASSOCIATED TRANSMISSION LINES**

**WHEREAS**, the 2010 Alaska Legislature passed an Energy Policy that set a goal of having 50% of the energy generated in Alaska come from renewable, "green", resources by 2025; and

**WHEREAS**, the Chugach and Tongass National Forests appear to be subject to the implementation of the Roadless Rule; and

**WHEREAS**, US Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack has announced that he has the sole authority to approve or disapprove permits for projects within the inventoried roadless areas of the Chugach and Tongass National Forests; and

**WHEREAS**, the inventoried roadless areas within the Chugach and Tongass National Forests make up the majority of remaining Forest Service lands outside of Wilderness or other areas already off limits to development; and

**WHEREAS**, a vast majority of potential hydroelectric projects that could be developed to supply renewable energy to Alaska's communities are located within inventoried roadless areas; and

**WHEREAS**, the inability to develop hydroelectric projects or the transmission lines necessary to transmit this power to Alaska's communities will result in continued diesel generation and resultant pollutants emitted into the environment; and

**WHEREAS**, the current version of the Roadless Rule may adversely impact the communities that reside within Alaska's National Forests and potential hydro-power and renewable energy projects in Southeast Alaska.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** the City Council for the City of Petersburg, Alaska, strongly urges Alaska Governor Parnell and Alaska's Federal Delegation to assure that the implementation of the Roadless Rule on Alaska's National Forests does not hinder or prohibit the development and maintenance of hydro-electric projects and transmission lines.

**PASSED and APPROVED** by the City Council of the City of Petersburg, Alaska on April 4, 2011.

ATTEST:



Kathy O'Rear, City Clerk

Dan Hickman

Dan Hickman, Acting Mayor

# SEAPA

Southeast Alaska Power Agency

1900 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue, Suite 318

Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

Ph: (907) 228-2281 • Fax: (907) 225-2287

[www.seapahydro.org](http://www.seapahydro.org)

March 15, 2011

To: The Alaska State Legislature

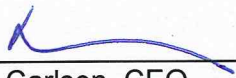
**Re: House Joint Resolution No. 20**

On behalf of The Southeast Alaska Power Agency (SEAPA), I am writing to inform you of our support for House Joint Resolution No. 20. SEAPA is the owner of the Swan Lake and Tye Lake hydro projects in southern Southeast Alaska. We deliver renewable hydropower to our member communities of Ketchikan, Wrangell and Petersburg. In addition, we own and maintain 175 miles of transmission lines between these communities. Ketchikan and Petersburg also own several small hydropower plants and, when combined with our facilities, we are able to meet almost all of the current power demands with renewable hydropower. However, loads continue to increase and more hydropower facilities will have to be built. We are fortunate that the geography in the region, coupled with high precipitation, lends itself nicely for the development of hydropower. There are numerous potential projects that can be developed to assure the majority of our power and energy is delivered by hydropower.

Unfortunately, most of these project reside in the Tongass National Forest and are classified as 'roadless'. The implementation of the 'roadless rule' would be not only devastating to our local economies but also devastating to our ability to develop new hydro projects.

We urge passage of HJR20 and also urge the Governor and Legislature to take whatever actions are necessary to stop the implementation of protection of inventoried roadless areas under the "roadless rule" in the Tongass and Chugach National Forests.

Sincerely,



Dave Carlson, CEO  
The Southeast Alaska Power Agency

cc: Governor Sean Parnell  
Congressman Don Young  
U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski  
U.S. Senator Mark Begich  
Senator Bert Stedman  
Representative Peggy Wilson  
Representative Kyle Johansen  
Lew Williams, III, Mayor, City of Ketchikan  
Jeremy Maxand, Mayor, City of Wrangell  
Al Dwyer, Mayor, City of Petersburg  
SEAPA Board of Directors



## SITKA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

329 Harbor Drive, Suite 212 Sitka, Alaska 99835 (907) 747-2660 fax (907) 747-7688 [www.sitka.net](http://www.sitka.net)

March 16, 2011

The Honorable Peggy Wilson  
Alaska House of Representatives  
State Capitol Room 408  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Representative Wilson:

The Sitka Economic Development Association is writing to express support for House Joint Resolution 20 regarding the affects of the Roadless Rule on hydro-electric projects located within the Tongass and Chugach National Forests.

Development of additional hydro-electric capacity in Southeast Alaska is vital to the region's economy and to the long-term health of the National Forests in question.

The financial, national security and environmental costs associated with the use of fossil fuels make development of hydro-electricity in Southeast Alaska the obvious course of action. Unlike the large hydro-electric dams of the lower-48 states, the hydro-electric dams of Southeast Alaska are based on alpine lake systems that are renewed by abundant annual rainfall and are relatively environmentally friendly, especially when compared with the continued burning of diesel for generating electricity.

It is ironic and extremely frustrating that at the same time the Federal Government is supporting and pushing for the development of renewable energy projects it is also creating obstacles and barriers that prevent such development. Placing the Tongass and Chugach National Forests under the constraints of the Roadless Rule will effectively make hydro-electric development in these areas impossible due to increased costs and regulatory burden.

The expansion of Sitka's Blue Lake dam has been in the planning stages for a number of years and construction is scheduled to begin early in 2012. The implementation of the Roadless Rule has already created problems for this project by prohibiting the removal of a stand of trees that would be underwater when the level of Blue Lake is raised, creating a turbidity issue that will costs millions of additional dollars to resolve.

SEDA's top strategic priority is to support the development of renewable energy resources in Sitka and Southeast Alaska. Without increased hydro-electric capacity, sustaining our current level of economic activity will be challenging at best and new economic development will be virtually impossible.

SEDA, therefore, strongly supports HJR 20.

Sincerely,

Garry A. White, Executive Director



March 16, 2010

Representative Kyle Johansen  
State of Alaska  
Capitol Building Room 114  
Juneau, Alaska 99811

**RE: Support for 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 the 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."

Dear Representative Johansen;

Southeast Alaska is an archipelago with more than a thousand rugged, forested islands harboring isolated villages which are scattered across its 500 mile length and are accessible only by boat or small plane. More than 90% of that land is owned and governed by the Federal Government. The people of Southeast Alaska are a hearty bunch of folks and are able to overcome many obstacles; however they must have access to land to survive.

Southeast Conference is a regional, nonprofit corporation that advances the collective interest of the people, communities and businesses in Southeast Alaska. Members include municipalities, native corporations and village councils, regional and local businesses, civic organizations and individuals throughout the region. Our goal is to support policies that promote strong economies, healthy communities, and a quality environment. We are the State-designated Alaska Regional Development Organization (ARDOR), the federally-designated Economic Development District (EDD), and the Governing Board for the Resource Conservation and Development Council (RC&D) for Southeast Alaska. Each of these designations requires Southeast Conference to take an active role in regional resource management and economic development planning. Our relationship with our members gives us the advantage of speaking with a unified voice in support of legislation or policy that will be for the betterment of our region.

In the past 10 years Southeast Conference in partnership with many other agencies and organizations have put an extensive amount of effort into the development of affordable, self sustaining, renewable "green" energy projects in our region. And it is fairly obvious that with the federal government controlling such vast amounts of the region and the energy resources within, that land access is a critical issue. And it is equally obvious that during these past few years, the forest was adequately protected during development of energy resources without the roadless enforcement. We have managed to develop several major hydro projects that are providing affordable renewable "green" energy to a portion of our people. Unfortunately we still have entire communities paying up to ninety cents a kilowatt hour for electricity. Our small businesses are the hardest hit and as you know, that has quite a ripple effect in these communities.

Lack of access to land and the paralyzing permitting process of the federal government are killing our communities. People are not able to heat their homes and turn on their lights much less start or



maintain a business. The financial obligation to heat schools or community buildings is crippling in these communities. Jobs are at a premium and there is no good news in sight.

As the government in Washington DC, environmental groups, and the courts continue to lock us out of our national forest our people in Southeast Alaska are being forced to leave the place they have called home for hundreds of years in order to survive.

The Obama administration has set a goal of having 25% of the energy generated in the US come from renewal, "green", resources by 2025. Alaska, through our Energy Policy passed by the legislature in 2010, has a goal of 50% by 2025. As it stands now 14 out of 15 hydroelectric projects in the Tongass National Forest and Chugach National Forest are subject to the protection of inventoried roadless areas under 36 C.F.R. 294.10-294.18 ("roadless rule") and will require approval by the Secretary of the US Department of Agriculture. Any attempt to develop a biomass infrastructure would be impossible with the current restrictions on the Tongass, thus road blocking any efforts made toward those goals.

The Obama administration has, on many occasions, promised jobs for the people of our country. It is time for this administration to set aside the zealous opinions of outside environmental groups and fulfill that promise. Exempt the Tongass and Chugach National Forest from the roadless rule and open these public lands for responsible resource development and allow the people that live here the opportunity to have affordable, "green" energy and a thriving economy.

Sincerely,

Shelly Wright  
Executive Director

CC: Senator Lisa Murkowski  
Senator Mark Begich  
Congressman Don Young



Tongass National Forest Energy Program – 2010 -2014							March 2, 2011
Proposed and Unconstructed Projects							
Name - District – Applicant - Power destination	Comments	Forest Plan LUD, Roadless	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
1. Schube Lake -- JRD, Alaska Power &Tel, Upper Lynn Canal	FERC issued prelim permit 11/30/2010. AP&T seeking funding from AEA.	Semi-Remote Recreation, Roadless #302	FS inv permit, studies	Studies	Studies	Draft LA	Final LA FERC EA
2. Lace River -- JRD, Green Power Development, LLC Kensington Mine	FERC issued prelim permit 09/15/2010	LUD II Roadless #301	----	FS inv permit, Studies	Draft LA	Final LA	FERC EA
3. Gastineau Channel Tidal --JRD, Natural Currents Energy Serv, Juneau – SE Intertie	FERC prelim permit 04/30/2010. Will probably not affect NFS lands/resources.	N/A	Studies	Studies	?	?	?
4. Sweetheart Lake -- JRD, Juneau Hydropower Inc. Juneau – SE Intertie	Applicant is developing study plans and Scoping Doc 1.	Semi-Remote Recreation Roadless #302	FS inv permit, studies	Studies	Draft LA	Final LA	FERC EA
5. Angoon Hydro/Thayer --ANM, Kootznoowoo Angoon	NEPA completed. (Non-FERC project)	Wilderness	Development plans, permits?	Plans, permits?	?	?	?
6. Killisnoo/Angoon Tidal -- ANM, Natural Currents Energy Serv, Angoon	FERC prelim permit app 08/2010. Will probably not affect NFS lands/resources.	N/A	Studies	Studies	?	?	?
7. Icy Passage Tidal -- HRD, Natural Currents Energy Serv, Hoonah	FERC prelim permit 04/30/2010. Will probably not affect NFS lands/resources.	N/A	Studies	Studies	?	?	?
8. Gartina Creek – HRD, Inside Passage Electrical Cooperative, Hoonah	FERC ruled that licensing is required. Project improvements on Sealaska land. Upper reaches of watershed on NFS lands.	N/A	?	?	?	?	?

Name - District – Applicant - Power destination	Comments	Forest Plan LUD, Roadless	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
9. Port Frederick Tidal – --HRD Alaska Power & Tel Hoonah	Is a hydroelectric project, rather than hydrokinetic. FERC prelim permit 11/18/2009.	<b>Old-Growth Habitat, Roadless #343</b>	FS inv permit, studies ?	Studies ?	Studies ?	Draft LA ?	Final LA ?
10. Neka Geothermal – HRD Tongass Energy Company Unknown	Site nomination rec'd 8/30/2010. FS working with BLM. TNF minerals group has the lead. (Non-FERC)	Timber production	?	?	?	?	?
11. Upper Tenakee Geothermal – SRD, Tlingit Haida CC Unknown	No recent activity. TNF minerals group has the lead. (Non-FERC)	Semi-Remote Recreation, <b>Roadless #311</b>	?	?	?	?	?
12. Tenakee Sp/Indian River – SRD City of Tenakee Springs Tenakee Springs	Project is on State/City but will impact FS fishpass. Upper reaches of watershed on NFS lands. FERC determined licensing not needed 5/26/2010. (Non-FERC)	N/A	Feasibility, DI to FERC	Studies, Design, Coordination	Construct ?	Construct ?	On-line ?
13. Blue Lake Modification -- SRD City & Borough of Sitka Sitka	Sitka applied to FERC to amend existing license and increase capacity. Would raise dam by 83 feet and inundate additional 362 ac of NFS lands. <b>FERC expected to request 4(e)s very soon.</b>	<b>Municipal Watershed, Roadless #331</b>	Draft LA Final LA	FERC EA, License	Construct.	Construction	On-line
14. Takatz Lake -- SRD City & Borough of Sitka Sitka and SE Intertie	FERC prelim permit on 09/19/2008.	Semi-Remote Recreation and <b>Remote Recreation, Roadless #330, 331</b>	Studies	Draft LA	Final LA	FERC EA	License

Name - District – Applicant - Power destination	Comments	Forest Plan LUD, Roadless	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
15. Baranof Chinook – SRD Hawken LLC Proposed salmon research facility	ADF&G and NSRAA not involved in salmon facility; appears to be private project. FERC determined licensing is required 6/2010.	<b>Remote Recreation, Roadless #330</b>	----	?	?	?	?
16. Little Port Walter/Osprey Lake -- SRD NOAA – NMFS Little Port Walter Marine Station	Federally-owned project. Non-FERC.	<b>Remote Recreation, Roadless # 334</b>	NEPA	NEPA, FS permit,	Construct.		
17. Cascade Creek -- PRD Cascade Creek LLC SE Intertie, BC, Lower 48	2 <sup>nd</sup> FERC prelim permit expired 1/31/2011. Applicant applied for new prelim permit on 2/1/2011. No decision yet by FERC. Draft license application and draft EA filed and <b>comments, prelim 4(e)s must be to FERC by May 19, 2011.</b>	Semi-Remote Recreation, Old Growth Habitat, Scenic Viewshed, Modified Landscape <b>Roadless #202</b>	Studies	Studies ? Draft EA	Final EA/LA ?	FERC EA ?	License ?
18. Ruth Lake -- PRD City of Angoon SE Intertie, BC, Lower 48	FERC prelim permit on 11/05/2009.	<b>Old Growth Habitat, Roadless #202</b>	Studies ?	FS inv permit ? Studies ?	?	?	?
19. Scenery Lake -- PRD City of Angoon SE Intertie, BC, Lower 48	FERC prelim permit on 10/01/2009	Semi- Remote Recreation, <b>Roadless #202</b>	Studies ?	FS inv permit ? Studies ?	?	?	?
20. Sunrise Lake – WRD City of Wrangell Unknown	Project is inactive. No FERC correspondence since 2008. City wishes to keep FS inv permit in effect.	Scenic Viewshed, <b>Roadless #231</b>	--	--	--	--	--

Name - District – Applicant - Power destination	Comments	Forest Plan LUD, Roadless	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
21. Neck Lake – TBRD Alaska Power & Tel Whale Pass	Project is on State land with FS road reservation. FERC determined licensing is required 11/04/2010.	N/A	Paperwork	?	?	?	?
22. Reynolds Creek – CRD Haida Corp. and AP&T Prince of Wales Island	Project is on private land and is not expected to affect NFS resources.	N/A	Financing, Plans	Plans, Construction	Construct		
23. Lake Shelokum – KMRD Alaska Power & Tel SE Intertie	FERC prelim permit 05/01/2009.	<b>Special Interest Area, Roadless #529</b>	----	FS inv permit, Studies	Studies	Draft LA	Final LA
24. Bell Island Geothermal – KMRD, Starkey Wilson Swan-Tyee Intertie	NEPA in progress. TNF minerals group has lead. (Non-FERC)	Semi-Remote Recreation, Roadless # 529	FS consent to BLM lease ?	NEPA to consider roadless.	?	?	?
25. Whitman Lake – KMRD Ketchikan Public Utilities Ketchikan, Swan-Tyee Intertie	Project was licensed in May 2009. Construction funding still pending.	<b>Old-Growth Habitat, Roadless #524</b>	Post-licensing required plans	Post-licensing plans, FS sp use permit	Construct	Construction	
26. Mahoney Lake – KMRD Cape Fox Corp. and AP&T Swan-Tyee Intertie	Licensed, unconstructed. Stay of license since 2004. Project is on private land but planned access road might be on NF.	N/A	?	?	?	?	?
27. Soule River – KMRD Alaska Power & Telephone BC and Lower 48	2 <sup>nd</sup> FERC prelim permit 09/22/2009. Draft license application and draft EA filed; <b>comments, prelim 4(e)s must be to FERC by May 2, 2011.</b>	<b>Remote Recreation, Roadless #530</b>	Studies	Draft LA Final LA ?	?	FERC EA?	License ?

**Typical project activities and timeline:**

Year 1: Applicant submits application to FERC and is issued a Preliminary Permit. This gives applicant exclusive right to study feasibility of a site and file a license application within 3 years. FS files as intervenor and submits comments. Applicant applies to FS for investigative studies permit. FS issues special use authorization for investigative studies.

Year 1-2: Pre-application document (PAD) is submitted by applicant to initiate public process and describe project thought to be feasible. FS provides comments. Study plans are developed in consultation with stakeholders. Field studies are conducted. FS provides comments.

Year 2-3: More studies. Applicant prepares Scoping Documents 1 and 2. Applicant prepares Draft License Application and submits to FERC. Includes detailed description of project and environmental analysis. FS comments and submits preliminary 4(e) terms and conditions.

Year 3-4: Applicant prepares/submits Final License Application to FERC, including responses and revisions based on DLA comments. FERC issues EA as final step. Applicant may submit application to FS for permit for the licensed project.

Year 4-5: FERC issues license. Applicant completes required plans for construction, monitoring, etc. FS comments. Applicant submits application to FS for permit for the licensed project—if has not already done so. FS issues decision and authorizes project to occupy NFS lands.

Year 5- ??: Construction of project. FS reviews, monitors, inspects.