



# SENATE RAILBELT ELECTRIC SYSTEM COMMITTEE

Senator John Coghill, Chairman  
Room 103, State Capitol  
Juneau, AK 99801

## **Responses to questions posed in Senate Finance Committee on March 3, 2020**

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### **1. Senator Hoffman requested a list of the RCA commissioners and their qualifications.**

The five commissioners are appointed to staggered, 6-year terms by the Governor and confirmed by the Legislature. AS 42.04.020 requires that commissioner have the following qualifications to qualify for appointment:

- A member in good standing of the Alaska Bar Association or
- Have a degree from an accredited college or university with a major in engineering, finance, economics, accounting, business administration, or public administration.
- Actual experience for a period of five years in the practice of law or in the field of engineering, finance, economics, accounting, business administration, or public administration is equivalent to a degree.

The RCA Commissioners are:

Robert (Bob) Pickett	March 7, 2008 – March 1, 2026 (reappointed in 2014 and 2020)
Stephen A. McAlpine	March 1, 2015 – March 1, 2021
Antony G. Scott	May 2, 2018 – March 1, 2022
Daniel A. Sullivan	March 1, 2019 – March 1, 2025
Jan Wilson	April 11, 2006 – March 1, 2024 (reappointed in 2012 and 2018)

#### Commissioner Robert (Bob) Pickett

Commissioner Robert Pickett was appointed by Governor Sarah Palin to the Regulatory Commission of Alaska in January 2008. After election by his fellow commissioners, he began serving as Chairman of the Commission on July 1, 2008. In 2014 Governor Sean Parnell appointed Commissioner Pickett to a second term.

Before his appointment to the RCA, Commissioner Pickett had more than 30 years of statewide experience in Alaska's housing industry, in both the private and public sectors. For twenty-one years, Commissioner Pickett worked for Alaska Housing Finance Corporation (AHFC) in a number of roles including Property Disposition Manager, Planner, and Program Manager. Promotion of public-private partnerships in the housing industry, and interagency coordination with housing related infrastructure were areas of Commissioner Pickett's emphasis while working at AHFC. His prior work experience also includes consulting, real estate sales and marketing, management of a materials testing laboratory for the Alaska Department of Transportation, and surveying for the U.S. Forest Service in Southeast Alaska.

Commissioner Pickett has a B.A. in Public Administration/Political Science from the University of Idaho, and has been married for more than 23 years to his wife Jane.

#### Commissioner Stephen McAlpine

Commissioner Stephen McAlpine was appointed by Governor Bill Walker to the Regulatory Commission of Alaska for a six-year term beginning March 1, 2015. Commissioner McAlpine was raised in Washington State. He is a graduate of the University of Washington and the Seattle University School of Law. Commissioner McAlpine came to Alaska in 1970 when he settled in Valdez, Alaska. While living in Valdez he was elected to the city council and was twice elected as its Mayor. In 1982 he was elected to his first of two terms as Alaska's Lieutenant Governor. In that capacity he was selected by his peers as both the Vice Chairman and Chairman of the National Conference of Lieutenant Governors. In 1988 he was selected as a Toll Fellow by the National Conference of State Governments. He served as Chairman of Westrends, liaison to the Western Conference of State Legislators, and a member of the National Conference of Secretaries of State.

Commissioner McAlpine currently resides in Anchorage, Alaska with his wife, Dana. His professional career has included a wide variety of legal matters for hundreds of individual and corporate clients in civil, criminal and administrative law at both the state and federal levels. During his professional career he has served on numerous state and local boards and commissions and on the Board of Directors of several corporations and nonprofit organizations.

#### Commissioner Antony Scott

Commissioner Scott got his undergraduate degree, in math and philosophy, from the University of California, Berkeley. His graduate work focused on energy and natural resource economics; he received two Masters' degrees and a PhD from the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

Commissioner Scott's first job in Alaska was as chief Economist at the Regulatory Commission of Alaska. He spent twelve years at the Alaska's Department of Natural Resources as a Commercial Analyst, Petroleum Investment Manager, and Commercial Manager, working to maximize state benefits from its oil and gas ownership. From 2012 to 2015, while at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, he largely focused on electric utilities and challenges to project development and system innovation. Starting in 2016, he served as Director of Programs and Policy at the Anchorage Municipal Light and Power Department.

#### Commissioner Dan Sullivan

Commissioner Dan Sullivan was appointed by Governor Mike Dunleavy to the Regulatory Commission of Alaska (RCA) for a six year term beginning March 1, 2019. Before his appointment to the RCA, Commissioner Sullivan served as Mayor of Anchorage from 2009-2015. He served on the Anchorage Assembly from 1999-2008, presiding as chair of the Assembly during the 2006-2007 term. Commissioner Sullivan also served as a board member of the voter created Alaska Natural Gas Development Authority from 2003-2010.

Commissioner Sullivan was the Executive Director of the 1996 Arctic Winter Games held in Chugiak and Eagle River and before that, his company the Sullivan Group, provided government relations services to a variety of clients including Marathon Oil, Phillips Petroleum, and the National Federation of Independent Business.

Commissioner Sullivan has a B.A. in Political Science from the University of Oregon. He has been married for 33 years to his wife Lynnette, an award winning teacher who recently retired from the Anchorage School District.

#### Commissioner Jan Wilson

Commissioner Wilson is an attorney, admitted to practice law in Alaska since 1975. She was a Commissioner and the last Chairman of the Alaska Pipeline Commission (APC), the agency created to administer AS 42.06, the Pipeline Act. In 1981 the APC merged into the Alaska Public Utilities Commission (APUC). Commissioner Wilson served as an administrative law judge for the APUC and its successor agency, the Regulatory Commission of Alaska (RCA), from the time of the merger until her appointment to the Commission in 2006.

Commissioner Wilson has extensive experience in oil and gas pipeline issues. As an APC commissioner and an administrative law judge she worked closely with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), which regulates interstate oil and gas pipelines. She conducted all proceedings the APC, APUC, or RCA held concurrently with the FERC from 1980 to 2006. Earlier in her career, Commissioner Wilson was City Attorney for the City of Kenai and an Assistant Attorney General in Juneau, serving in the Oil and Gas Special Litigation section.

Commissioner Wilson earned an undergraduate degree in Economics from Mount Holyoke College and a law degree from the University of Denver.

#### **2. Senator Wilson requested a list of the entities/projects connected to the Railbelt network:**

Golden Valley Electric Association	Matanuska Electric Association
Chugach Electric Association	Municipal Light & Power
Homer Electric Association	City of Seward Electric Department
Aurora Energy	Willow Solar Farm
Fire Island Wind	Delta Wind Farm

University of Alaska Fairbanks  
Alaska Energy Authority (Bradley Lake, Alaska Intertie)  
Doyon Utilities (Ft. Wainwright, Ft. Richardson, Ft. Greely)  
Smaller Independent Power Producers: South Fork Hydro; Ram Valley (hydro, in progress);  
Fishhook Hydro (in progress).