

From:
To:
Subject:
Date:

[REDACTED]
HB 220
Wednesday, April 29, 2026 2:00:00 PM

Subject: HB 220

Representative Himschoot, I am very hopeful that you can move HB 220 out of committee, with high expectations that the bill will be passed this session. As mentioned in the February hearing, we have over 40 families that rely on the MEA underwater power grid, which is over 40 years old, at the end of its service life and in critical need of replacement.

Over the last several years MEA Crews have increasingly put bandages on the aging lines. You can imagine the challenges with winter ice conditions and Lake breakup times while trying to make critical line repairs.

Again, thank you for your support in moving HB 220 forward.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have.

Mike Klawitter - President, Nancy Lake Association, Willow, AK

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: HB 220 - MEA/Nancy Lake underwater power grid
Date: Tuesday, May 5, 2026 9:42:26 AM

Rep Mears,

HB 220 MEA Underwater Power Grid – Nancy Lake

Problem: The MEA underwater cables are old, failing, nearing end of service life, and in critical need of replacement. MEA is currently allowed to repair but not replace the cables due to the State Park regulations that do not allow MEA to install new lines to either backup the existing grid or replace sections that are beyond repair. Over the last several years MEA crews have continued to bandage the aging lines. The power outages in the summer can be located and fixed. Power outages during wintertime when ice covers the lake are nearly impossible to repair.

HB 220 will allow MEA to install new underwater electric cables in Nancy Lake. This year's Legislative session ends in three weeks on May 20th. HB 220 is stuck in Committee. I am very hopeful that you can move HB 220 out of committee, with high expectations that the bill will be passed this session.

As mentioned in the February hearing, we have families that rely on the MEA underwater power grid, which is over 40 years old, at the end of its service life and in critical need of replacement. Over the last several years MEA Crews have increasingly put bandages on the aging lines. You can imagine the challenges with winter ice conditions and Lake breakup times while trying to make critical and more frequent line repairs.

Again, thank you for your support in moving HB 220 forward.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have.

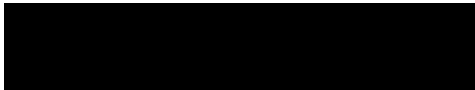
John Shea

[REDACTED]

Willow, AK 99688

[REDACTED]

From:
To:
Subject:
Date:



HB 220
Tuesday, May 5, 2026 4:26:39 AM

Representatives Himschoot and Mears,

I am very hopeful that you can move HB 220 out of committee, with high expectations that the bill will be passed this session.

As mentioned in the February hearing, my family relies on the MEA underwater power grid, which is over 40 years old, at the end of its service life and in critical need of replacement. Over the last several years MEA Crews have increasingly put bandages on the aging lines. You can imagine the challenges with winter ice conditions and Lake breakup times while trying to make critical and more frequent line repairs.

Again, thank you for your support in moving HB 220 forward.

Jimmy Opinsky

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: HB 220
Date: Saturday, May 2, 2026 4:47:39 AM

Ms. Himschoot and Ms. Mears

I was 13YO in 1965 when my parents purchased property on Nancy Lake. At the time, Willow was very rural. The Parks highway did not connect to Fairbanks and the trip from Anchorage to Willow was close to 3hrs. I have seen many changes in the 60ys I have been on the lake. Matanuska Electric brought us into modern times with electricity in the 70's and the power was provided to us with underwater cables. Myself and many of my neighbors now rely on that power for heat, lights and water well pumps. Those power cables are old and are failing. MEA is allowed to repair but not replace because the State Park won't allow them to install new lines. Candles, propane lights and hauling fresh water in 5 gallon jugs was fun when I was a teenager, not so much now. HB 220, as I understand it, would allow MEA to install new underwater electric cables to either backup the existing grid or replace sections that are beyond repair. Power outages in the summer can be located and fixed. Power outages when Ice covers the lake are nearly impossible to repair. Please pass HB 220 out of committee and do what is necessary to get this passed this year. This bill does not represent revenue or expense to the State, it merely removes a roadblock so our electric provider can modernize the underwater grid.

Sincerely, Bob and Paula McVitty

[REDACTED]



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Anchorage, Alaska 99503-6650
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Fax: (907) 561-5547
www.alaskapower.org

March 11, 2026

Representative Kevin McCabe
State Capitol, Room 13
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Re: House Bill 220 – Easements and Rights-of-Way in State Parks

Dear Representative McCabe,

Alaska Power Association (APA), the statewide trade association for electric utilities in Alaska, supports House Bill 220 and urges the legislature to pass the legislation this session.

HB 220 provides clarity, predictability, and efficiency in the granting of easements and rights-of-way for utility infrastructure located within state park units. This will lead to lower costs and faster timelines for public utilities to make critical upgrades and replacements.

The legislation establishes clear, mandatory authority for easements, creates a formal, consistent application process, sets reasonable timelines and prevents unnecessary delays. The bill also protects applicants from burdensome or inconsistent requirements and maintains strong environmental protection. All these attributes lead to concise expectations for both the Alaska Department of Natural Resources and the public utility seeking access to lands inside a state park.

HB 220 represents common-sense modernization of state policy. It enables utilities to maintain reliability, manage costs, and respond quickly to outages or infrastructure needs, all while preserving protections in Alaska's state parks

Thank you for filing this bill and thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments.

Sincerely,

Crystal Enkvist
Executive Director
Alaska Power Association

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: HB 220 MEA Underwater Power Grid Support Email
Date: Thursday, April 30, 2026 11:05:22 PM

Hello Representatives, Himschoot and Mears,

I am writing to you in support of HB 220. I remain hopeful that HB 220 can be advanced out of committee, with strong expectations that it will pass during this legislative session.

As noted during the February hearing, more than 40 families depend on the MEA underwater power grid. This system is now over 40 years old, has reached the end of its service life, and is in urgent need of replacement.

In recent years, MEA crews have increasingly relied on temporary fixes to keep the aging lines operational. The challenges of performing repairs—especially during winter ice conditions and spring lake breakup—have made these efforts more difficult and frequent.

Thank you for your consideration and for your support in moving HB 220 forward. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Paul Baril
Vice President, Nancy Lake Association
Willow, Alaska

Paul R. Baril, AIA
Principal Architect

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Anchorage, Alaska 99501

PH 907.349.1425 FAX 907.349.1325

celebrating **40+** years

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: HB220
Date: Tuesday, May 5, 2026 10:29:47 AM

Honorable Representatives –

This email is written in support of HB220. My understanding is that this bill is stalled in committee, for the second year in a row. I am writing in hopes that the bill can move forward and be passed this session.

Many families rely on the MEA underwater power grid, which is more than 40 years old, reaching end of life, and in need of significant upgrades or replacement. MEA crew have attempted to bandage the lines, with increasing frequency. This bandaging is made more difficult during winter icing conditions and during breakup. A line replacement would increase capacity and stabilize the system.

We appreciate your help and support in moving this important legislation forward and hope to see it passed this session.

Sincerely,

Michelle Drew
Property Owner, Nancy Lake

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: HB220
Date: Monday, May 4, 2026 3:38:58 PM

Representatives Himschoot and Mears,

I am very hopeful that you can move HB 220 out of committee, with high expectations that the bill will be passed this session.

As mentioned in the February hearing, we have families that rely on the MEA underwater power grid, which is over 40 years old, at the end of its service life and in critical need of replacement. Over the last several years MEA Crews have increasingly put bandages on the aging lines. You can imagine the challenges with winter ice conditions and Lake breakup times while trying to make critical and more frequent line repairs.

Again, thank you for your support in moving HB 220

Kevin Yancey
Lake Resident

From: [REDACTED]
To: [House Community and Regional Affairs](#)
Subject: HB220
Date: Thursday, March 5, 2026 2:41:42 PM

Dear Committee members,

I am a former member of the Mat Su State Parks Citizen's Advisory Board and a long time user of and advocate for State Parks.

I oppose HB 220.

Any legislation involving our State Parks must first and foremost protect the integrity of the park and the quality of the user experience. HB 220 does neither, hence my opposition.

The bill has virtually no guidance or guardrails that would prevent the creation of a mishmash of utility corridors within our parks.

The bill would effectively change the land use designation from "park land" to "park land encumbered by utility infrastructure." At issue are public lands, and running utility infrastructure on them would alter their legislatively designated use, and have a real and potentially significant adverse effect. The public has a right to participate in easement or right-of-way decisions. HB220 does not provide for that.

Granting an easement is conveying an interest in state lands, and Article VIII, Section 10 must be complied with, and the bill should explicitly provide for that.

HB 220 should not move forward.

Sincerely,
John Strassenburgh
Talkeetna

[REDACTED]