

# LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTIONS 2014

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# ALASKA POWER ASSOCIATION

## R E S O L U T I O N

### **A Resolution Urging the Creation of an Urgent Implementation Plan for Alaska Energy Policy (14-1)**

Alaska is in the midst of an energy crisis. Communities statewide are faced with aging generation and transmission facilities. The unstable price and supply of fuel is increasingly impacting Alaskans everywhere.

The Alaska Power Association membership urges the creation of an implementation plan that provides support and funding sources to short-, mid-, and long-term generation and transmission facilities, and facilitates fuel development and storage infrastructure projects with financial commitments from the State.

Alaska Power Association urges the 28<sup>th</sup> Alaska Legislature and the Parnell Administration to make the implementation plan of energy policy the highest priority for the 2014 legislative session.

APA further urges the State to develop and maintain current Alaska power statistics that demonstrate quantifiable progress towards the goals established in the plan.

(Adopted Dec. 2009; updated Dec. 2011; updated Dec. 2012; updated Dec. 2013)

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# ALASKA POWER ASSOCIATION

## R E S O L U T I O N

### A Resolution Urging Capital Funding in Support of Alaska Energy Policy (14-2)

In light of the ambitious and aggressive goals set forth in the Alaska Sustainable Energy Act and State Energy Policy, the Alaska electric utility sector needs sources of capital for infrastructure and transmission.

Alaska Power Association urges the Alaska Legislature to fully support the following funding mechanisms:

- Direct appropriations toward major energy projects;
- Properly capitalize the Power Project Loan Fund, enabling meaningful funding for infrastructure projects; and
- Implement the State of Alaska-funded and administered revolving loan fund (AIDEA Sustainable Energy Program) for the financing of infrastructure projects.

(Adopted Dec. 2010; updated Dec. 2011; updated Dec. 2012; updated Dec. 2013)

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# ALASKA POWER ASSOCIATION

## R E S O L U T I O N

### A Resolution Supporting Full Funding for Power Cost Equalization (14-3)

Alaska Power Association strongly supports full funding for Power Cost Equalization. APA appreciates the Alaska State Legislature's full funding of the PCE benefit at 100 percent for FY14. We urge the legislature to fully fund PCE in the Administration's FY15 operating budget.

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(Adopted Dec. 2005; updated Dec. 2008; updated Dec. 2009; updated Dec. 2010; updated Dec. 2011; updated Dec. 2012; updated Dec. 2013)

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# ALASKA POWER ASSOCIATION

## R E S O L U T I O N

### A Resolution Addressing Unaffordable Energy in Rural Alaska (14-4)

Alaska's citizens are subject to the most extreme disparity in the cost of energy for homes and businesses of any state in the union. Electricity to a homeowner can cost as little as 10 cents a kilowatt-hour (kWh) and as much as \$1.20 per kWh. Heating fuel can cost as little as \$9 per million BTU (natural gas in Anchorage) and as much as \$75 or more in rural Alaska.

The cost of energy in rural Alaska has resulted in a tremendous financial burden on virtually every resident and business in these remote communities. New businesses are stymied due to the crippling cost of energy. Existing businesses are crippled and frequently forced into closure due to the high cost of energy. Schools must apply ever increasing percentages of their operating revenues towards energy costs, diverting funds from essential educational needs. Industry is unable to compete with low energy costs in the Pacific Northwest or the rest of the world, resulting in high-paying processing and value-added jobs being exported along with Alaska raw materials and products.

The survival of rural Alaska depends upon immediate and real relief from the cost of energy needed for electricity, heat and transportation. Rural Alaskans, despite their geographic location, should nonetheless expect reasonably priced energy equivalent to what it costs in urban Alaska.

The State of Alaska is strongly urged to take immediate, meaningful steps to ensure that every Alaskan has access to affordable, reliable energy for their electricity, heating and transportation needs.

(Adopted Dec. 2009; updated Dec. 2012; updated Dec. 2013)

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# ALASKA POWER ASSOCIATION

## R E S O L U T I O N

### A Resolution Urging Continued Funding of the Emerging Energy Technology Fund (14-5)

Alaska Power Association members are facing the challenge of providing reliable and cost-effective electric power service while paying rapidly escalating costs for fuel with no substantial financial relief in sight.

This unfortunate reality, coupled with advances in the application of alternative energy technology in cold weather climates, is moving the consideration of distributed generation and renewable energy sources to the forefront of many electric utilities' long-term strategic plans. The Alaska Power Association Board of Directors recognizes that established renewable energy projects such as wind farms and alternative energy sources such as nuclear may play an important role in Alaska's future energy supply.

Without a funding mechanism to assist Alaska's electric utilities with researching and developing renewable energy generation, whether it be in the form of alternative energy project grants, low interest loans or production tax credits, the utilities are forced to decide between either not pursuing such opportunities due to their extraordinarily high capital costs or raising electric rates to help offset the cost of adding new generation into the energy portfolio. Alaska's electric utilities will pursue renewable energy projects as long as they make economic sense on behalf of the consumers.

Alaska Power Association urges the Legislature to continue funding the Emerging Energy Technology Fund to assist with the research, development and eventual application of alternative energy sources into the Alaska electric utility generation portfolio.

(Adopted March 2006; updated Oct. 2007; updated Nov. 2009; updated Dec. 2011)

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# ALASKA POWER ASSOCIATION

## R E S O L U T I O N

### **A Resolution Urging the State of Alaska to Provide a Match to Denali Commission Funding of Energy Infrastructure (14-6)**

The Denali Commission was established by Congress in 1998 with the objective of establishing code-compliant energy facilities in rural Alaska. The commission was intended to be a joint State-Federal partnership in this endeavor.

Since inception, the Denali Commission has provided more than \$500 million in federal energy grants to upgrade rural fuel storage and energy production facilities. As Alaska's congressional influence evolves, it is critical that the State of Alaska recognize the importance of this program to the sustainability of rural Alaska. In doing so, the State provides much needed funding while illustrating to Congress the priority of this program to Alaska.

Alaska Power Association urges the State of Alaska to provide 200 percent matching State funds to assist the Denali Commission in achieving the mission of providing safe, code-compliant electric generation and bulk fuel tank farm facilities to serve the rural citizens of Alaska.

(Adopted Dec. 2009; updated Dec. 2010; updated Dec. 2011; updated Dec. 2012; updated Dec. 2013)

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# ALASKA POWER ASSOCIATION

## R E S O L U T I O N

### A Resolution Supporting Construction of an Alaska Natural Gas Pipeline (14-7)

Alaska Power Association strongly encourages our Governor, Congressional Delegation, and Legislature to take all reasonable actions to facilitate, and, if it is in the State's best interests, actively participate in the prudent development of an Alaska Natural Gas pipeline that will bring North Slope natural gas to market immediately. Alaska Power Association further encourages the use of Alaska royalty natural gas in communities along the pipeline route.

(Adopted Dec. 2004; updated 2006; updated Nov. 2009; updated Dec. 2010; updated Dec. 2011)

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# ALASKA POWER ASSOCIATION

## R E S O L U T I O N

### **A Resolution Supporting Funding for Projects Recommended by the Alaska Energy Authority for the Renewable Energy Grant Fund (14-8)**

Regarding the capital appropriation for the Renewable Energy Grant Fund, Alaska Power Association supports funding for the list of projects recommended by the Alaska Energy Authority through its review process. AEA has developed and applied a professional process to screen projects in determining its recommended list.

Renewable energy projects benefit Alaskans in many ways, including reducing dependence upon fossil fuels. The projects recommended for funding through the REGF help advance Alaska's goal of producing 50 percent of the state's power with renewable energy by 2025.

Accordingly, APA urges the 28<sup>th</sup> Legislature to provide an appropriation sufficient to cover the projects and funding levels recommended by AEA.

(Adopted Feb. 2013)

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# ALASKA POWER ASSOCIATION

## RESOLUTION

### A Resolution Urging the Legislature to Support Utility Efforts to Create a Unified Transmission System for the Railbelt (14-9)

The Railbelt electric transmission system is comprised of hundreds of miles of lines owned by a number of entities, including utilities and the State of Alaska. The system is not nearly as robust as grids in the Lower 48. Limitations affect both the reliability and the cost of electric energy in the region.

A 2012 study by the Alaska Energy Authority determined that there are Railbelt transmission restrictions that result in significantly higher energy costs in the region. The AEA study determined that more than \$900 million of transmission projects are needed to resolve existing problems. Although it is clear that the region would benefit from these necessary improvements, it is unlikely to be financed by utility ratepayers under the current operating model.

Absent a clear path to implement AEA study results, the Railbelt needs to consider a different approach to grid management.

In the Lower 48, a series of geographic Regional Transmission Organizations or Independent System Operators have been developed to address similar problems. Railbelt electric utilities have begun working together to study successful Lower 48 models and consider how best to develop, operate and maintain a rational regional transmission system.

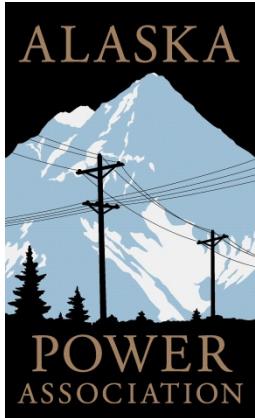
Alaska Power Association urges the Alaska State Legislature to support efforts by the Railbelt electric utilities to unify the regional transmission system.

(Adopted Dec. 2013)

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# ALASKA POWER ASSOCIATION

## R E S O L U T I O N

### **A Resolution Urging the Legislature to Use the Bradley Lake Model for Financing Additional State-owned Hydroelectric Projects (14-10)**

The Alaska Energy Authority has been advancing the concept of a new, major hydropower resource in the Railbelt. Also under consideration is a diversion project that will increase production from the existing Bradley Lake Hydroelectric Project. The financing of major energy projects such as these will be critical to the eventual price of power paid by consumers. Alaskans and their economy will reap long-term benefits from following a financing model that results in stable, affordable electric energy.

The Bradley Lake Hydroelectric Project was financed by a combination of 50 percent equity contribution from the State of Alaska and 50 percent debt through state-issues bonds. In exchange for power from the project, the electric utilities of the Railbelt pay the annual debt service on the bonds. These payments will continue to be made to the State after the bonds are retired, in recognition of its initial equity contribution.

The Bradley Lake financing model has proven itself fair and equitable for both the State of Alaska and the ratepayers of the region. Today, low-priced energy from Bradley Lake flows to Alaskans throughout the Railbelt on a non-discriminatory basis, providing an economic benefit that will be in place for decades to come.

The Alaska Power Association urges the Alaska State Legislature to use the Bradley Lake model for financing additional State-owned hydroelectric projects.

(Adopted Dec. 2013)

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# ALASKA POWER ASSOCIATION

## R E S O L U T I O N

### A Resolution Urging the Legislature to Support Legislation to Address Metals Theft (14-11)

The theft of metals and subsequent sale as scrap is a growing problem across the nation and for Alaska utilities and contractors. These metal thefts result in power outages, lost productivity and needless expenses to all electrical customers. Further, the theft of ground wires creates dangerous conditions for workers and the public.

Many states have enacted laws to allow legal scrap metal recycling while minimizing metal theft by requiring identification of all customers, trackable payments, and between two and seven years of recordkeeping of all businesses purchasing scrap metal.

Alaska Power Association urges the Alaska State Legislature to support legislation to address metals theft.

(Adopted Dec. 2013)

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# ALASKA POWER ASSOCIATION

## RESOLUTION

### A Resolution Objecting to the “One Size Fits All” Approach of Federal Regulations (14-12)

Alaska is a state of spatial, geographic and climatic extremes, comprising 20 percent of the US landmass, 50 percent of its coastline, 100 percent of its arctic lands and 0.2 percent of its population. These characteristics render the federal government’s “One Size Fits All” regulatory approach incompatible and impractical in Alaska. Complex regulations developed to address concerns in the contiguous United States have tremendous unintended consequences when applied indiscriminately to Alaska.

APA urges the federal government to tailor regulations regarding Ultra Low Sulfur Diesel, Air Quality Permitting, Endangered Species Act, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Roadless Rule, etc. to recognize the severe impacts such actions have on Alaskans.

The costs to Alaskans from impacts of federal regulations pose significant economic hardships, far in excess of purported benefits of such regulations. The absence of an electric grid necessitates hundreds of generation plants across the state, with most serving less than 500 customers. Even the largest utilities serve only thousands of customers, not millions as in the contiguous US. All Alaska utilities should be classified as “small” as none of them exceed the Small Business Administration threshold of electricity sales of four million megawatt hours.

The following effects should be assessed before extending regulations to Alaska:

- Impact on availability and affordability of electricity
- Impact on availability and affordability of all sources of energy
- Impact on Alaska communities' economic viability and wellbeing
- Impact on small, stand-alone public utilities

APA further urges that federal permitting processes such as those implemented by FERC be required to provide immediate feedback to applicants during the permitting process, to ensure that very short construction windows can be optimized. Project delays caused by lengthy permitting processes cost millions of dollars and result in the loss of years of benefits.

APA further urges that human populations be afforded priority over endangered and/or threatened flora and fauna species and that historical rights-of-way to deliver electricity to communities be restored and maintained.

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# ALASKA POWER ASSOCIATION

## R E S O L U T I O N

### A Resolution Urging Congress to Adopt Energy, Economic and Regulatory Improvement Policies for Hydropower (14-13)

Hydroelectric power is a proven source of reliable, renewable electricity in Alaska and across the nation. Hydropower currently accounts for 25 percent of Alaska's electricity generation. However, the need for additional hydropower generation continues to grow as fossil fuels decrease in availability, increase in price, and are the focus of ever increasing environmental regulation.

The continued dependence of the United States on foreign supplies of oil (still the generation fuel for many of Alaska's rural communities) remains both a national energy security issue and an economic concern for Alaska families and businesses. In recent years, diesel oil has drastically increased in price, resulting in electric rates higher than \$1 per kilowatt-hour for some rural communities in Alaska.

The State of Alaska and many Alaska Power Association members are striving to develop viable forms of renewable and alternative energy such as hydropower, wind, and geothermal.

However, the development of Alaska hydropower, in particular, is severely impeded when hydropower is not recognized as a renewable or alternative energy source in some federal laws and programs.

Alaska Power Association supports policies that provide incentives and regulatory policy support that improve the market for hydropower project development. APA calls on Congress to:

1. Broaden the inclusion of hydropower as a renewable and clean energy resource in federal energy policies. This includes, but is not limited to, a federal RES or CES, and all federal procurement requirements for renewable or clean energy resources.
2. Improve the federal licensing process to expedite project deployment timelines, allowing hydropower projects to compete with other energy resources, such as wind and natural gas.
3. Adopt and extend for the long term tax and other economic incentives for hydropower projects.
4. Increase R&D funding for advancements in hydropower technology and operations, as well as project demonstrations in Alaska.

(Adopted Dec. 2010; updated Dec. 2011; updated Dec. 2012)

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# ALASKA POWER ASSOCIATION

## R E S O L U T I O N

### A Resolution Encouraging EPA to Consider Alaska's Unique Circumstances in Proposed Environmental Regulations (14-14)

Alaska's unique circumstances are not conducive to a one-size-fits-all national environmental policy approach. Basic infrastructure assumed to be available throughout the United States, such as roads, interconnected utilities, or waste disposal facilities, is limited or nonexistent in most of Alaska. Access to renewable power and natural gas is regionally-specific, and non-existent or cost prohibitive in many parts of the state. These factors, as well as Alaska's extreme weather, limited construction season, and the extremely high cost of goods and transportation, result in Alaskans paying some of the highest electric bills in the nation.

When the Environmental Protection Agency does not consider Alaska's unique circumstances, the resulting regulations can make the cost of producing electricity too expensive for a local economy to sustain. Alaska utilities are distinctly different than those in the rest of the nation, and these significant differences must be considered when proposing new environmental regulations. For example, it is not reasonable to require Alaska facilities to ship coal ash to the Lower 48 for disposal in hazardous waste landfills, nor is it reasonable to put rural communities at risk with ammonia storage for negligible NOx emission reduction.

All Alaskans deserve to live in a healthy and productive community, yet the approach to improving environmental conditions must be practical, achievable, and cost-effective.

Alaska Power Association (APA) commends EPA for recognizing Alaska's unique limitations when they redefined Generally Available Control Technology for engines subject to the new RICE NESHAP Subpart ZZZZ requirements. In keeping with this theme, APA encourages EPA to continue its acknowledgment of Alaska's unique obstacles when drafting environmental regulation, and to continue providing conditional exemptions or Alaska-specific standards.

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(Adopted Dec. 2010; updated Dec. 2012; updated Dec. 2013)



# 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 and Other Sources of Renewable Energy Within National Forests (14-15)

Government at all levels, including the federal Administration, 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 and geothermal energy are 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. Geothermal resources are also abundant in Alaska and replace fossil fuels at low cost.

Special use permits necessary for federal approval of hydro projects withdrawn by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) under the Federal Power Act of 1920 that are within Inventoried Roadless Areas (IRAs) of national forests must be individually signed by the Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Roads needed to move equipment from tidewater to areas withdrawn for hydro projects by the FERC that pass through IRAs are prohibited by the 2001 Roadless Rule. 36 C.F.R. § 294.12 (a). Transmission lines through IRAs and roads needed to maintain them are likewise prohibited, adding cost to hydro projects that are authorized.

Projects which must be permitted under the Mineral Leasing Act, including geothermal resources, that were not in existence on January 12, 2001, are prohibited by the 2001 Roadless Rule. 36 C.F.R. § 294.12 (b). (See also 66 Fed. Reg. 3244, at 3256 January 12, 2001).

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 that pass through IRAs. The 2001 Roadless Rule will either prohibit or add time 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. The 2001 Roadless Rule also creates impediments to the accessibility and expansion of existing hydropower project facilities.

Alaska Power Association urges Alaska's Congressional delegation and their fellow members of Congress, the Governor's Office, the federal 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 and geothermal development caused by the 2001 Roadless Rule and the need for the Secretary for 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 and continued maintenance and expansion of existing hydropower created by prior use authorizations.

#### Association Members

Alaska Electric and Energy Co-op  
Alaska Electric Light & Power  
Alaska Power & Telephone  
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  
Golden Valley Electric Association  
Homer Electric Association  
INN Electric Cooperative  
Inside Passage Electric Co-op  
Kodiak Electric Association  
Kotzebue Electric Association  
Kwaa Electric Transmission  
Interlie 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  
Southeast Alaska Power Agency  
Tanaian Electric Cooperative  
Tanana Power Company  
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# ALASKA POWER ASSOCIATION

## R E S O L U T I O N

### A Resolution Urging Continued Federal Support of the Denali Commission (14-16)

The Denali Commission was established by Congress in 1998 with the express mission of building essential safe, code-compliant infrastructure in rural Alaska.

Since inception, the commission has been the primary investor in critical infrastructure such as health clinics, power generation facilities and bulk fuel tank farms in numerous rural Alaskan communities, but tens of thousands of Alaskans are still without rudimentary health services or code-compliant energy facilities.

The work of the Denali Commission is far from complete, yet the federal administration and Congress have reduced funding for the commission by more than three quarters in recent years.

As citizens of the United States of America, rural Alaskans must be assured a reliable and affordable provision of electric service and heating fuel.

Alaska Power Association urges the federal administration and Congress to restore funding to the Denali Commission so that they can continue their life-saving mission of providing essential safe, code-compliant infrastructure to the rural residents of Alaska.

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# ALASKA POWER ASSOCIATION

## R E S O L U T I O N

### A Resolution Urging Support for the USDA Rural Utilities Service High Energy Cost Grant Program (14-17)

The USDA Rural Utilities Service High Energy Cost Grant Program provides grants for rural communities with extremely high energy costs (where the average residential expenditure for home energy is at least 275 percent of the national average) to acquire, construct, extend, upgrade, and otherwise improve energy generation, transmission, or distribution facilities.

The High Energy Cost Grant Program was authorized by Congress in the 2000 Rural Electrification Act because it covered a gap in programs that desperately needed to be filled. The funds are dispersed via a national competitive process.

The program was funded at \$30 million in FY 2003. Since then, annual funding has decreased dramatically and funding for the next fiscal year is in jeopardy. Reducing the program will not only constrain economic activity in rural areas but also worsen the nation's overall economy and unemployment, and contribute to unaffordable energy costs in rural areas where the per capita income is already the lowest in the country. Furthermore, an enormous amount of work remains to be done in Alaska to bring rural power plants up to acceptable national standards.

Alaska Power Association urges Congress and the federal Administration to restore funding for the USDA High Energy Cost Grant Program to \$30 million.

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