

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 23 am

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON ENERGY

Amended: 4/6/11

Introduced: 3/16/11

A RESOLUTION

1 **Urging the United States Congress to classify hydroelectric power as a renewable and**
2 **alternative energy source.**

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

4 **WHEREAS** fossil fuels such as oil, natural gas, and coal are important sources of
5 energy for the electric power supply system of the United States; and

6 **WHEREAS** the cost of most fossil fuels, particularly oil, has increased dramatically
7 in recent years; and

8 **WHEREAS** increases in the cost of fossil fuels such as oil have caused, and continue
9 to cause, substantial increases in the electric bills of residential, business, and governmental
10 rate payers at a time when the economy of the United States is in a major recession; and

11 **WHEREAS** the United States is dependent on foreign sources for a majority of its oil
12 supply; and

13 **WHEREAS** oil and other fossil fuels are finite resources that contribute to growing
14 worldwide concerns over carbon and other environmental effects; and

15 **WHEREAS** Alaskans, particularly those in rural parts of the state, are dependent on
16 oil-fired electric generation with retail rates as high as \$1 a kilowatt-hour; and

1 **WHEREAS** hydroelectric power is a viable source of clean, renewable, and long-
 2 lasting electric energy in many areas of the state; and

3 **WHEREAS** hydroelectric energy can be developed in Alaska using high-elevation
 4 lakes and run-of-the-river systems that have few or no negative environmental effects; and

5 **WHEREAS** it is the policy of the state to encourage development of its abundant
 6 hydroelectric potential and wind, geothermal, and other renewable and alternative energy
 7 sources to reduce dependence on fossil fuels for electric power generation and to reduce the
 8 cost of electricity to rate payers; and

9 **WHEREAS** some federal laws and federal renewable and alternative energy
 10 programs do not classify hydroelectric power as a renewable or alternative energy source; and

11 **WHEREAS** regions of the United States outside of Alaska have limited water
 12 supplies or water shortages that could lead to classifying hydroelectric power as
 13 nonrenewable, but many areas of Alaska have ample water supplies that are capable of
 14 providing a renewable energy source for hydroelectric projects in the state;

15 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States
 16 Congress to take the necessary action to classify Alaska hydroelectric power as a renewable
 17 and alternative energy source so that Alaska can participate in federal programs without
 18 restriction to facilitate development of the state's hydroelectric resources for the benefit of its
 19 residents.

20 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of
 21 the United States; the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and
 22 President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Harry Reid, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate;
 23 the Honorable Mitch McConnell, Minority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable John
 24 Boehner, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Nancy Pelosi,
 25 Minority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives; and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski
 26 and the Honorable Mark Begich, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S.
 27 Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.