

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 27

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVE HOLLAND

Introduced: 5/18/25

Referred: House Special Committee on Energy

A RESOLUTION

1 **Supporting a comprehensive energy and economic strategy for the state; urging the**
2 **federal government to disburse previously appropriated funds for energy and**
3 **infrastructure projects; affirming the principle of energy equity and committing to a**
4 **future-oriented energy strategy for the state; encouraging state agencies to aggressively**
5 **pursue opportunities to develop and process critical minerals; directing state agencies to**
6 **coordinate energy and economic planning; and championing a unified voice in support**
7 **of the state's full development potential.**

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

9 **WHEREAS** the state possesses vast natural wealth, including oil, gas, minerals,
10 renewable energy resources, and environmental assets, that has long underpinned the state's
11 economic prosperity and offers unmatched opportunities for future development; and

12 **WHEREAS** art. VIII, sec. 2, Constitution of the State of Alaska, mandates that the
13 state's natural resources be developed "for the maximum benefit of its people," creating an
14 imperative for both short- and long-term economic outcomes; and

1 **WHEREAS** the Alaska State Legislature has urged and continues to urge the United
2 States Congress to honor the terms of the Mineral Leasing Act and the Alaska Statehood Act
3 that provide for the state receiving a 90 percent share of all bonuses, royalties, and rentals
4 received by the federal government from oil and gas exploration, development, and
5 production in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and the National Petroleum Reserve in
6 Alaska; and

7 **WHEREAS** President Trump's executive orders issued on January 20, 2025, and
8 March 20, 2025, direct federal agencies to unlock the state's development potential by
9 expediting permits, restoring access to resource lands, and prioritizing critical mineral
10 production and infrastructure investment for national energy and security resilience; and

11 **WHEREAS** the Southcentral region of the state will be importing, from a foreign
12 country, gas for heat and electricity as soon as 2027; and

13 **WHEREAS** federal action blocking grant-funded energy projects threatens energy
14 security and economic development; and

15 **WHEREAS** the 2022 - 2027 Alaska Statewide Comprehensive Economic
16 Development Strategy defines a shared framework for advancing the economic engines of the
17 state, including the oil and gas, mining, seafood, tourism, and air cargo industries, as well as
18 high-growth emerging sectors, including critical minerals processing, hydrogen fuel
19 production, sustainable energy production, mariculture, aerospace, and manufacturing, in
20 order to support a strong business climate and entrepreneurial ecosystem, develop a prepared
21 workforce, and build a resilient, future-ready economy; and

22 **WHEREAS** the Alaska Federation of Natives has affirmed that reliable and
23 affordable energy is foundational to the prosperity, resilience, and sustainability of Alaska
24 Native communities and has called on the state to ensure that any future energy transition,
25 whether from oil and gas or toward renewable and critical mineral development, proactively
26 includes rural and Indigenous communities in energy planning, infrastructure investment, and
27 local workforce development; and

28 **WHEREAS** North Slope oil projects in the state, including projects under
29 construction in Willow and Pikka, are projected to increase oil production to over 600,000
30 barrels a day; and

31 **WHEREAS** the state holds over 35,000,000,000,000 cubic feet of proven natural gas

1 reserves, which could supply domestic and Pacific markets for generations; and

2 **WHEREAS** the state's mineral resources, including copper, cobalt, graphite, rare
3 earth elements, and gold, are essential to energy systems, national defense, and advanced
4 manufacturing and are prioritized for immediate development under federal executive orders;
5 and

6 **WHEREAS** the current administration published projections estimating that 93
7 percent of new energy capacity in 2025 will come from renewable energy and storage
8 projects; and

9 **WHEREAS** the state's renewable energy potential is among the highest in the world,
10 including over 10,000 gigawatts of potential wind, hydro, geothermal, solar, wave, and tidal
11 energy; and

12 **WHEREAS** collocating energy-intensive industries, such as oil and gas refining,
13 mining and ore processing, data centers, fish processing, and clean hydrogen production, with
14 the state's hydroelectric and renewable energy systems could reduce energy costs statewide,
15 benefit statewide communities, position production for shipment to Pacific markets, and
16 generate long-term economic growth; and

17 **WHEREAS** rural regions of the state, which are home to over 200 isolated
18 microgrids, face some of the highest energy and food costs in the United States and will
19 benefit from the state's inclusive development strategy, proximity to resources and energy,
20 and investments in low-cost energy, infrastructure, and workforce pathways;

21 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature affirms its commitment to a
22 comprehensive energy and economic strategy that includes exploration, development, and
23 production of fossil fuels, renewables, and critical minerals and value-added manufacturing to
24 unleash a new era of state prosperity and opportunity for all regions and future generations;
25 and be it

26 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the federal
27 government to provide project and financial support and permitting coordination for the
28 development of the state's natural gas resources and to disburse previously appropriated funds
29 for critical energy and infrastructure projects that affect every state resident; and be it

30 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature endorses the goals of the
31 2022 - 2027 Alaska Statewide Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy to strengthen

1 the existing economic engines of the state while building new sectors and supports immediate
2 alignment between federal executive orders and the 2022 - 2027 Alaska Statewide
3 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy to streamline permitting and infrastructure
4 for resource projects; modernize regulations; facilitate access to federal funding and project
5 financing; coordinate energy and economic development strategies across agencies; and align
6 investments, education, and workforce development to create career-oriented opportunities for
7 state residents and future generations; and be it

8 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature affirms the principle of
9 energy equity and commits to a future-oriented energy strategy that integrates rural and
10 Indigenous community priorities into state energy planning; ensures that energy investments
11 provide direct benefits to underserved regions, including affordable local power and heat;
12 builds regional energy plans that support resilience and lower costs through local and clean
13 energy sources; and advances workforce development and infrastructure investment to enable
14 local participation and leadership in emerging energy and resource industries; and be it

15 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature encourages state agencies
16 to aggressively pursue opportunities to develop and process critical and rare earth elements
17 using the state's clean energy to produce the world's lowest-carbon strategic minerals, which
18 are vital to national defense, the health of the national supply chain, and the secure production
19 of essential products for the nation; and be it

20 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature directs state agencies to
21 coordinate energy and economic planning to create, by 2035, 1,200 new scalable ventures and
22 associated jobs in energy and emerging sectors generating economic activity, with the goals
23 of retaining the next generation of state residents and attracting to the state more than 30,000
24 working-age people; lowering the cost of energy for households and industry to below
25 national averages; increasing the affordability of and access to housing and health care in the
26 state and increasing financial resilience in communities across the state; building the grid and
27 industrial base to support the state's role as an exporter of clean energy and value-added
28 critical mineral products; creating, by 2035, more than \$5,000,000,000 of growth in the state's
29 economy and more than \$400,000,000 in new public revenue; leveraging federal and state
30 investments in critical infrastructure, including roads, ports, railroads, pipelines, broadband,
31 and utilities, to align projects that would provide economic development opportunities; and be

1 it

2 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature champions a unified voice
3 in support of the state's full development potential, both domestically and internationally, to
4 ensure that all public and private sector efforts strengthen the communities and the economy
5 of the state while reflecting the dual imperatives of current national security needs and
6 sustainable prosperity into the future.

7 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Donald J. Trump, President
8 of the United States; the Honorable Pete Hegseth, United States Secretary of Defense; the
9 Honorable Douglas Burgum, United States Secretary of the Interior; the Honorable Chris
10 Wright, United States Secretary of Energy; and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the
11 Honorable Dan Sullivan, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Nicholas Begich, U.S.
12 Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.