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Sponsor Statement for HJR 25 Urging Congress to Classify Hydroelectric Power as Renewable

One of the most readily available sources of renewable energy in Alaska is hydroelectric power. Alaska has a vast amount of high elevation lakes and run-of-the-river systems which have the potential, in many areas, to completely displace diesel generated power with little to no environmental impact. Hydroelectric power is so abundant in Alaska that most areas of the state can make use of it in some form or another.

With such a plentiful source of non-diesel generated power, it is unfortunate that the Federal Government does not have a working definition of renewable or alternative that includes hydroelectric power. This effectively cuts hydroelectric power projects off from many potential sources of federal funding, and therefore, hinders Alaska's efforts to displace diesel generated power.

HJR 25 asks Congress to develop a working definition of renewable and alternative which includes hydropower so that reliable renewable energy policy can be developed, and valuable projects receive adequate support.

I urge your support of HJR 25.