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House Special Committee on Energy

Sponsor Statement

HJR 23 Hydroelectric Power; Renewable Energy

House Joint Resolution 23 urges the United States Congress to classify hydroelectric power as a renewable and alternative energy source.

The U.S. has long used targeted tax credit programs to incentivize investment and innovation in the energy sector. This is true for fossil and renewable projects resources alike — and the Investment and Production Tax Credits for renewable energy have been highly successful. According to the National Hydropower Association, tens of thousands of jobs and billions of dollars in private investment across industries — not to mention gigawatts of affordable, reliable, and renewable power — have been driven by smart tax policies.

Hydroelectric has extraordinary potential in Alaska, and the ability to displace diesel generated power with little to no environmental impact. However, hydropower receives only one half the credit available to other renewable energy sources. Equalizing the tax credit for hydropower will help Alaskans in their efforts to displace costly non-renewable generation of power.

HJR 23 sends a strong message urging Congress to develop a working definition of renewable and alternative which includes our hardest working renewable resource, hydropower. Please join me and sending this unified resolution to our elected Representatives in Washington D.C.