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Governor Sean Parnell  
STATE OF ALASKA

January 14, 2011

The Honorable Gary Stevens  
President of the Senate  
Alaska State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 111  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear President Stevens,

Under the authority of Article III, Section 18, of the Alaska Constitution, I am transmitting a bill that would authorize the Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) to move forward on pursuing a large hydroelectric project to supply much needed energy to Interior and Southcentral Alaska. The bill would authorize AEA to acquire, construct, own, and operate new power projects; create a new Alaska Railbelt energy fund as a fund of AEA; repeal the existing Railbelt energy fund (AS 37.05.520) after the balance of the existing fund is appropriated and transferred into the new fund or appropriated and expended for other purposes; address quorum requirements of the AEA board; and allow for the adoption of regulations to govern the procurement of supplies, services, professional services, and construction.

Alaska's State Energy Policy target is to reach 50 percent of its electricity generation through renewable energy by 2025. To achieve this goal, we must move aggressively and invest now to develop capacity for a major hydroelectric project on the Susitna River. This legislation allows AEA to continue with environmental and feasibility studies positioning the State to seek preliminary approval from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for a project that will provide half of Southcentral's electricity demand.

Alaska must invest now to create new opportunities for economic development and jobs for Alaskans. A Susitna Dam hydroelectric project will provide an important and much needed supply of renewable energy for Alaskan homes and businesses while creating jobs for Alaskans. A sectional analysis is provided with this packet.

I urge your prompt and favorable action on this important measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Sean Parnell".

Sean Parnell  
Governor

Enclosure