

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 27

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

NINETEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATOR ZHAROFF

Introduced: 4/25/95

Referred: Resources

A RESOLUTION

1 Endorsing development of the Falls Creek hydropower project.

2 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

3 WHEREAS using oil for power generation depletes nonrenewable resources and
4 causes communities who are relying on electric power generated from oil to face higher costs
5 as supplies of nonrenewable resources dwindle; and

6 WHEREAS the generation of electricity from fossil fuels increases pollution and
7 health hazards and contributes to global warming and to acid rain; and

8 WHEREAS reliance on foreign oil adds to our national debt and weakens our national
9 economy; and

10 WHEREAS an increase in electrical use in both Glacier Bay National Park and in the
11 town of Gustavus will call for more diesel generating plants and will increase costs; and

12 WHEREAS a small hydropower project at Falls Creek could satisfy the needs of
13 Glacier Bay National Park and the community of Gustavus well into the 21st century; and

14 WHEREAS a hydropower generator at Falls Creek could result in savings of
15 \$1,500,000 in the next five years in power costs and an additional \$3,000,000 in avoided
16 capital expenditures for improvements and upgrades to the existing power system to meet
17 demand, and could reduce operating expenses and maintenance costs by \$500,000; and

1 **WHEREAS** the Falls Creek hydropower project is intended to be financed solely by
2 private capital; and

3 **WHEREAS** issues relating to Glacier Bay National Park are frequently contentious,
4 but the community of Gustavus and the National Park Service agree that the Falls Creek
5 hydropower project is both environmentally sound and economically advantageous; and

6 **WHEREAS**, because the site of the hydropower project is currently within the
7 boundaries of Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve, an Act of Congress will be needed to
8 change designation of the land status;

9 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature strongly endorses development
10 of the Falls Creek hydropower project in an environmentally sound manner, and encourages
11 the Congress to enact appropriate measures to help bring this project to fruition.

12 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Bill Clinton, President of the
13 United States; the Honorable Bruce Babbitt, Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior;
14 Roger G. Kennedy, Director, National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior; Robert
15 Barbee, Alaska Regional Director, National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior; and
16 to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the
17 Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.