

**SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 41**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTIETH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

**BY THE SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE**

**Introduced: 2/20/98**

**Referred: Resources**

**A RESOLUTION**

**1 Relating to federal exemptions from regulation by the Federal Energy Regulatory  
2 Commission for construction of small-scale hydroelectric projects in Alaska.**

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

**4 WHEREAS** Senator Frank Murkowski has introduced legislation in the Congress of  
**5 the United States that would speed up construction of small-scale hydroelectric projects that  
6 are fueled by a renewable resource by replacing federal regulation with state regulation; and**

**7 WHEREAS** S. 439 will exempt the construction of new hydroelectric projects that  
**8 generate no more than 5,000 kilowatts, that primarily serve rural areas, and that would  
9 otherwise use diesel generators in the production of electricity from regulation by the Federal  
10 Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) so long as the state has adopted a system of state  
11 regulation for small-scale hydroelectric projects and will permit exempting the relicensing of  
12 existing small-scale projects from FERC regulation so long as there is state regulation; and**

**13 WHEREAS** S. 439 does not exempt projects from existing environmental laws; and

**14 WHEREAS** the exemption from FERC regulation would only be triggered when the  
**15 state notifies the Secretary of Energy that the state has in place a comprehensive process for  
16 regulating small hydroelectric projects; and**

1           **WHEREAS** the FERC regulatory process is so time-consuming, cumbersome, and  
2 expensive that it can make small-scale power projects uneconomical to build;

3           **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature supports Senator Murkowski in  
4 his efforts to reduce the cost of power generation in rural Alaska and urges the Congress of  
5 the United States to approve S. 439.

6           **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Al Gore, Jr., Vice-President  
7 of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Strom Thurmond,  
8 President Pro Tempore of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Newt Gingrich, Speaker of the U.S.  
9 House of Representatives; the Honorable Federico F. Pena, U.S. Secretary of the Department  
10 of Energy; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S.  
11 Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska  
12 delegation in Congress.