

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 25

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES THOMAS, Johansen, Edgmon, Millett, Austerman, Kerttula, Muñoz, Wilson, Johnson, Dahlstrom, Gruenberg, Crawford, Gardner, Tuck

Introduced: 3/13/09

Referred: House Special Committee on Energy, Resources

A RESOLUTION

1 **Urging the United States Congress to classify hydroelectric power as a renewable and**
2 **alternative energy source.**

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

4 **WHEREAS** fossil fuels such as oil, natural gas, and coal are important sources of
5 energy for the electric power supply system of the United States; and

6 **WHEREAS** the cost of most fossil fuels, particularly oil, has increased dramatically
7 in recent years; and

8 **WHEREAS** increases in the cost of fossil fuels such as oil have caused, and continue
9 to cause, substantial increases in the electric bills of residential, business, and governmental
10 rate-payers at a time when the economy of the United States is in a major recession; and

11 **WHEREAS** the United States is dependent on foreign sources for a majority of its oil
12 supply; and

13 **WHEREAS** oil and other fossil fuels are finite resources that contribute to growing
14 worldwide concerns over carbon and other environmental effects; and

15 **WHEREAS** Alaskans, particularly those in rural parts of the state, are dependent on
16 oil-fired electric generation with retail rates as high as \$1 a kilowatt-hour; and

1 **WHEREAS** hydroelectric power is a viable source of clean, renewable, and long-
2 lasting electric energy in many areas of the state, including the southeast, western,
3 southwestern, and southcentral areas of the state; and

4 **WHEREAS** hydroelectric energy can be developed in Alaska largely using high-
5 elevation lakes and run-of-the-river systems that require little or no dam construction and
6 have little or no negative environmental effects; and

7 **WHEREAS** it is the policy of the state to encourage development of its abundant
8 hydroelectric potential and wind, geothermal, and other renewable and alternative energy
9 sources to reduce dependence on fossil fuels for electric power generation and to reduce the
10 cost of electricity to rate-payers; and

11 **WHEREAS** some federal laws and federal renewable and alternative energy
12 programs do not classify hydroelectric power as a renewable or alternative energy source;

13 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States
14 Congress to take the necessary action to classify hydroelectric power as a renewable and
15 alternative energy source so that the state can participate in federal programs without
16 restriction to facilitate development of the state's hydroelectric resources for the benefit of its
17 residents.

18 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Vice-
19 President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Harry Reid,
20 Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Mitch McConnell, Minority Leader of the
21 U.S. Senate; the Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; and
22 the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Mark Begich, U.S. Senators, and the
23 Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.