CS FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 27(ENE)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON ENERGY

Offered: 2/16/26
Referred: Rules

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES HOLLAND, Story

A RESOLUTION

Supporting a comprehensive energy and economic strategy for the state; affirming the principle of energy equity and committing to a future-oriented energy strategy for the state; encouraging state agencies to aggressively pursue opportunities to develop and process critical minerals; supporting the development of the hydrogen industry in the state; directing state agencies to coordinate energy and economic planning; and encouraging the creation of a task force to explore energy and mineral development, including hydrogen energy.

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

WHEREAS the state possesses vast natural wealth, including oil, gas, minerals, renewable energy resources, and environmental assets, that has long underpinned the state's economic prosperity and offers unmatched opportunities for future development; and

WHEREAS the Alaska State Legislature has urged and continues to urge the United States Congress to honor the terms of the Mineral Leasing Act and the Alaska Statehood Act that provide for the state receiving an 88 percent share of all bonuses, royalties, and rentals

received by the federal government from oil and gas exploration, development, and production in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska; and

WHEREAS President Trump's executive orders issued on January 20, 2025, and March 20, 2025, direct federal agencies to unlock the state's development potential by expediting permits, restoring access to resource lands, and prioritizing critical mineral production and infrastructure investment for national energy and security resilience; and

WHEREAS the Southcentral region of the state will be importing, from a foreign country, gas for heat and electricity as soon as 2028; and

WHEREAS the 2022 - 2027 Alaska Statewide Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy defines a shared framework for advancing the economic engines of the state, including the oil and gas, mining, seafood, tourism, and air cargo industries, as well as high-growth emerging sectors, including critical minerals processing, hydrogen fuel production, sustainable energy production, mariculture, aerospace, and manufacturing, in order to support a strong business climate and entrepreneurial ecosystem, develop a prepared workforce, and build a resilient, future-ready economy; and

WHEREAS the Alaska Federation of Natives has affirmed that reliable and affordable energy is foundational to the prosperity, resilience, and sustainability of Alaska Native communities and has called on the state to ensure that any future energy transition, whether from oil and gas or toward renewable and critical mineral development, proactively includes rural and Indigenous communities in energy planning, infrastructure investment, and local workforce development; and

WHEREAS North Slope oil projects in the state, including projects under construction in Willow and Pikka, are projected to increase oil production to over 600,000 barrels a day; and

WHEREAS the state holds over 35,000,000,000,000 cubic feet of proven natural gas reserves, which could supply domestic and Pacific markets for generations; and

WHEREAS the state possesses significant potential for hydrogen energy production derived from natural gas with carbon management, renewable energy resources, and emerging geologic hydrogen opportunities, and for hydrogen derivatives such as ammonia, methanol, and sustainable aviation fuel suitable for domestic use and export to Asia and Pacific markets;

and

WHEREAS the state possesses significant potential for hydrogen production derived from natural and stimulated geologic hydrogen production, with associate opportunities, but currently lacks adequate policy frameworks for underground storage, leasing, including lease and royalty payments, and regulation of exploration and production for both hydrogen and associated secondary production of helium; and

WHEREAS the state's mineral resources, including copper, cobalt, graphite, rare earth elements, and gold, are essential to energy systems, national defense, and advanced manufacturing and are prioritized for immediate development under federal executive orders; and

WHEREAS the current administration published projections estimating that 93 percent of new energy capacity in 2025 would come from renewable energy and storage projects; and

WHEREAS the state's renewable energy potential is among the highest in the world, including over 10,000 gigawatts of potential wind, hydro, geothermal, solar, wave, and tidal energy; and

WHEREAS advanced nuclear technologies, including small modular reactors and microreactors, offer the state a reliable, nonintermittent, zero-carbon baseload energy source capable of supporting industrial development, lowering energy costs, and strengthening long-term statewide energy security; and

WHEREAS the strategic deployment of nuclear microreactors in rural regions of the state at military installations and in emerging industrial hubs would provide stable power essential for national security operations, Arctic readiness, and the development of critical mineral and rare earth projects across the state; and

WHEREAS collocating energy-intensive industries, such as oil and gas refining, mining and ore processing, data centers, fish processing, and clean hydrogen production, with the state's hydroelectric and renewable energy systems could reduce energy costs statewide, benefit statewide communities, position production for shipment to Pacific markets, and generate long-term economic growth; and

WHEREAS rural regions of the state, which are home to over 200 isolated microgrids, face some of the highest energy and food costs in the United States and will

benefit from the state's diversified energy development strategy, proximity to resources and energy, and investments in low-cost energy, infrastructure, and workforce pathways;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature affirms its commitment to a diversified energy and economic strategy that includes exploration, development, and production of fossil fuels, renewables, and critical minerals and value-added manufacturing to unleash a new era of state prosperity and opportunity for all regions and future generations; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature urges the federal government to provide project and financial support and permitting coordination for the development of the state's natural gas resources and to disburse previously appropriated funds for critical energy and infrastructure projects that affect every state resident; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature endorses the goals of the 2022 - 2027 Alaska Statewide Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy to strengthen the existing economic engines of the state while building new sectors and supports immediate alignment between federal executive orders and the 2022 - 2027 Alaska Statewide Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy to streamline permitting and infrastructure for resource projects; modernize regulations; facilitate access to federal funding and project financing; coordinate energy and economic development strategies across agencies; and align investments, education, and workforce development to create career-oriented opportunities for state residents and future generations; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature recognizes that hydrogen industry development is a unique hybrid activity, combining mineral, geothermal, and oil and gas exploration and development, power generation, industrial processing, and subsurface storage and carbon capture and utilization storage management, and encourages the evaluation of statutory and regulatory frameworks to ensure clear authority, predictable permitting, and coordinated oversight of hydrogen development; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature affirms the principle of energy equity and commits to a future-oriented energy strategy that integrates rural and Indigenous community priorities into state energy planning; ensures that energy investments provide direct benefits to underserved regions, including affordable local power and heat; builds regional energy plans that support resilience and lower costs through local and clean

energy sources; and advances workforce development and infrastructure investment to enable local participation and leadership in emerging energy and resource industries; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature encourages state agencies to aggressively pursue opportunities to develop and process critical and rare earth elements using the state's clean energy to produce the world's lowest-carbon strategic minerals, which are vital to national defense, the health of the national supply chain, and the secure production of essential products for the nation; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature directs state agencies to coordinate energy and economic planning to create, by 2035, 1,200 new scalable ventures and associated jobs in energy and emerging sectors generating economic activity, with the goals of retaining the next generation of state residents and attracting to the state more than 30,000 working-age people; lowering the cost of energy for households and industry to below national averages; increasing the affordability of and access to housing and health care in the state and increasing financial resilience in communities across the state; building the grid and industrial base to support the state's role as an exporter of clean energy and value-added critical mineral products; creating, by 2035, more than $5,000,000,000 of growth in the state's economy and more than $400,000,000 in new public revenue; leveraging federal and state investments in critical infrastructure, including roads, ports, railroads, pipelines, broadband, and utilities, to align projects that would provide economic development opportunities; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature encourages the governor to work with the legislature to establish a task force, working group, or similar organizational review to, before the beginning of the Thirty-Fifth Alaska State Legislature, provide recommendations to the legislature to advance energy and mineral sector development in the state; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the task force also review hydrogen energy development in the state, including hydrogen produced from natural gas, renewable energy resources, and geologic sources, as well as hydrogen derivatives, including ammonia, methanol, and sustainable aviation fuel, and evaluate options for addressing hydrogen development, including

(1) the classification of hydrogen-related activities for purposes of land

leasing, subsurface rights, and resource management;

(2) the use of existing oil and gas units, depleted reservoirs, and other geologic formations for underground hydrogen storage and associated carbon storage;

(3) the coordination of land access, leasing, and rights-of-way necessary to support hydrogen production, storage, transmission, and export facilities;

(4) the alignment of hydrogen development with in-state energy security, price stability, and industrial growth; and

(5) assessing whether the divisions of the Department of Natural Resources responsible for oil and gas development, geological and geophysical surveys, and mining and land are currently able to perform hydrogen resource assessments, and, if not, what is required to build the capacity necessary to perform hydrogen resource assessments.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Donald J. Trump, President of the United States; the Honorable Pete Hegseth, United States Secretary of War; the Honorable Douglas Burgum, United States Secretary of the Interior; the Honorable Chris Wright, United States Secretary of Energy; and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Dan Sullivan, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Nicholas Begich, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.