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Government

1 IN THE HOUSE

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CHRISTIANSEN AND JOHNSON

2 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 23

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 THIRD LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Relating to a plan for small electrical
6 systems for villages and rural areas in
7 Alaska.

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

9 WHEREAS many villages and rural communities in Alaska other-
10 wise qualified, are unable to obtain the benefits of rural electri-
11 fication under the Rural Electrification Act of 1936, as amended,
12 because of lack of managerial and technical experience in the field
13 of electric power and, because of their limited size, they are un-
14 able to provide a revenue base which will support adequate full-
15 time staffing; and

16 WHEREAS means are available through various governmental
17 agencies for training selected members of such villages and com-
18 munities to manage and operate electric power systems, once such
19 system is installed; and

20 WHEREAS there are other cooperatives in the State of Alaska
21 which have the experience, managerial and technical staffing, and
22 can supply the necessary services to small systems; and

23 WHEREAS the Area Redevelopment Administration of the United
24 States and other State and Federal agencies in endeavoring to
25 promote the economic and social welfare of the people of such areas,
26 are severely handicapped in their programs for want of a common
27 and essential commodity in such communities - electricity; and

28 WHEREAS adequate electric power is the cornerstone of perman-
29 ent progress and development of any community, lighting the homes,

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1 businesses and industries, as well as the hearts of the people
2 thereof; and

3 WHEREAS Matanuska Electric Association, Inc. of Palmer, an
4 REA financed rural electric cooperative, has successfully pioneered
5 a system (referred to herein as the Matanuska System) of providing
6 such electric power by furnishing technical and financial assis-
7 tance on a reimbursable basis, whereby the facilities are installed
8 and operated by MEA until such time as local personnel are trained
9 and experienced enough to assume the duties and responsibilities
10 for the operation of such facilities; and continuing technical
11 assistance is then provided on a reimbursable basis; and

12 WHEREAS the cases of Unalakleet and Stony River, where ade-
13 quate electric power is now being furnished through the efforts
14 and assistance of MEA, demonstrate the practicability of the Mat-
15 anuska plan; and

16 WHEREAS other REA financed electric cooperatives in Alaska
17 equipped with technical staffs and experience in construction and
18 operation of electric power systems have indicated interest in the
19 Matanuska plan and should be encouraged to consider the rendering
20 of like assistance to villages in their respective areas; so

21 BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature does commend Matanuska
22 Electric Association, Inc. its management, directors and members
23 for their far-sighted, good-neighbor policy in electrifying Unala-
24 kleet and Stony River through rendering financial and technical
25 assistance to those communities under the direction and control of
26 REA; and be it

27 FURTHER RESOLVED that other rural electric cooperatives in
28 Alaska be urged to review and consider the Matanuska plan with
29 the object of applying the same through their own organizations to

1 other villages in their own areas; and be it

2 FURTHER RESOLVED that REA is urged to foster and support the
3 Matanuska plan through its established electric cooperatives in
4 Alaska in all cases whenever and wherever the same is feasible
5 and practicable within the framework of the Rural Electrification
6 Administration; and be it

7 FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be sent to
8 the Honorable John F. Kennedy, President of the United States; the
9 Honorable Orville L. Freeman, Secretary of Agriculture; the
10 Honorable Stewart L. Udall, Secretary of the Interior; the
11 Honorable Norman Clapp, Administrator, Rural Electrification
12 Administration; the Honorable Robert L. Bennett, Area Director,
13 Bureau of Indian Affairs; and the members of the Alaska delegation
14 in Congress.

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