

Introduced: 3/23/65  
Referred: Local Govern-  
ment and Finance

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY MESSRS. ENGSTROM,  
BOARDMAN AND HAUGEN

2

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 49

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

FOURTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5

Relating to the construction and

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improvement of water and sani-

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tation systems in small towns

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in Alaska.

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

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WHEREAS the dangerous water and sanitation conditions in

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certain small towns in Alaska are exemplified by the following

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examples:

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ANGOON has a population of about 350 persons. The water

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supply of the town is inadequate and subject to contamination,

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it being a surface supply collected from muskeg seepage. The

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water supply receives no treatment even though recent analysis

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showed the water to be contaminated with coliform bacteria. In

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addition, the water supply is frozen about six weeks in the winter

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and dry about six weeks in the summer. Intestinal diseases and

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infectious hepatitis are common among the population.

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HYDABURG has a population of about 325 persons. The existing

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water and sewage systems are inadequate. The water supply is

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contaminated and is apparently responsible for the high incidence

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of gastro-intestinal disorders among the population. A water

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supply project has been started but is progressing very slowly

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due to a labor shortage and inclement weather, and is only about

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30 per cent complete. The town is without funds except for an

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amount of \$5,000 which is being held in hopes that it can be

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matched nine to one under the Economic Opportunities Act. Members

HJR 49

1 of the city council have expressed concern that the project will  
2 not be completed because of the inability of the town to provide  
3 the necessary labor at wages of \$2.00 per hour.

4 HOONAH has a population of about 400 persons. The water and  
5 sewer systems are inadequate and the water system is contaminated.  
6 A project under P. L. 121 has been under discussion for over 10  
7 years but has not yet been started.

8 CRAIG has a population of about 350 persons. The water and  
9 garbage systems are inadequate. The town is presently obtaining  
10 water from the local cannery supply which, however, was frozen  
11 up for several weeks during the past winter.

12 YAKUTAT has a population of about 250 persons. The town had  
13 a new water supply and sewage collection system installed under  
14 P. L. 121 during the summer of 1964, but many of the users have  
15 now had the water supply shut off because of failure to pay the  
16 hookup charge. The town has applied for a grant under P. L. 660,  
17 Water Pollution Control Act, but has failed to come up with  
18 matching funds and is unable to avail itself of this grant. Many  
19 of the houses still utilize outdoor privies and bad odors emanate  
20 from them in warm weather. Winds have upset one or two of the  
21 privies and some are exposed to the extent that dogs spread the  
22 filth throughout the town. Garbage is dumped on the beach and  
23 piles up around the school yard and blows around the town.

24 KAKE has a population of about 450 persons. The health  
25 center and school are provided with water from a drilled well  
26 which seems to be satisfactory, but the remainder of the town  
27 obtains water from a muskeg pond with a small earth-filled dam.  
28 The water in the pond is unprotected and subject to contamination.  
29 The supply of water is often short in the summer and frozen during

1 the winter. The sewage system in the town is inadequate, there  
2 being probably less than 12 flush toilets in the town. A complete  
3 rebuild of both the water and sewer systems is necessary with  
4 treatment plants for both.

5 KLAWOCK has a population of about 400 persons. The water  
6 supply is obtained from an impounded lake about three miles from  
7 the town. There is no water treatment. The sewage system is  
8 inadequate. Both the water and sewage systems need to be rebuilt  
9 and proper garbage disposal maintained.

10 BE IT RESOLVED that the United States Public Health Service  
11 and the Bureau of Indian Affairs are urged to answer immediately  
12 the need of the above mentioned towns; that the Governor of the  
13 State, William A. Egan, is urged to provide maximum direction to  
14 speed up programs and coordinate efforts between federal and  
15 state officials; and be it

16 FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be sent to  
17 the Honorable Stewart L. Udall, Secretary of the Interior; the  
18 Honorable Anthony J. Celebrezze, Secretary of Health, Education,  
19 and Welfare, and the Honorable E. L. Bartlett and the Honorable  
20 Ernest Gruening, U. S. Senators, and the Honorable Ralph J. Rivers,  
21 U. S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.

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