

1 IN THE SENATE

BY SENATOR BLODGETT

2

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 13

3

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

FOURTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5

Relating to a plan for small

6

electrical systems for villages

7

and rural areas in Alaska.

8

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

9

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

16

17

18

19

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

20

21

22

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

23

24

25

26

27

28

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

29

WHEREAS adequate electric power is the cornerstone of

SJR 13

1 permanent progress and development of any community, lighting the
2 homes, businesses and industries, as well as the hearts of the
3 people thereof; and

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

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

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

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

29 FURTHER RESOLVED that other rural electric cooperatives in



1 Alaska be urged to review and consider the Matanuska plan with
2 the object of applying the same through their own organizations to
3 other villages in their own areas; and be it

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

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

17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29