

Original sponsor: Rules Committee
by request

Offered: 6/15/78
Referred: Rules

1 IN THE SENATE

BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

2 HOUSE CS FOR SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 50

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 TENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Relating to the Alaska Power Authority,
6 the Phase I environmental, economic,
7 social and engineering studies of the Su-
8 sitna Hydroelectric Project, and the
9 incurring of indebtedness for Phase I.

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

11 WHEREAS the Alaska Power Authority under AS 44.56.180 has submitted to
12 the legislature and to the commissioner of commerce and economic development
13 a statement outlining the status of the Susitna Hydroelectric Project and the
14 Plan of Study outlining the necessary feasibility studies of the project
15 which is planned to be designed, and may be acquired or constructed by the
16 United States under an agreement providing for ownership of the project by
17 the authority; and

18 WHEREAS the Congress of the United States, on October 22, 1976, enacted
19 P.L. 94-587, the Alaska Hydroelectric Power Development Act, which Act
20 authorized the Secretary of the Army and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to
21 participate in the Susitna Hydroelectric Project; and

22 WHEREAS there is now pending before Congress a proposal which would
23 amend P.L. 94-587 so as to authorize an agreement between the United States
24 and the Alaska Power Authority which will provide that the United States will
25 reimburse the authority for any of the authority funds expended in the Phase
26 I stage of the Susitna Hydroelectric Project if the Phase I report is not
27 favorable or if the authority within three years of the completion of the
28 report is unable to borrow money to pay the construction costs of the pro-
29 ject, including the costs of the Phase I studies, based on the security of

1 the project or its revenues; and

2 WHEREAS the Phase I activities outlined delineate the environmental,
3 economic, social and engineering studies requisite to informed decision
4 making; and

5 WHEREAS the cost to be incurred during Phase I is now estimated to be
6 \$25,000,000 but may exceed that amount; and

7 WHEREAS it is considered to be in the best interests of the State of
8 Alaska to proceed with Phase I of the project through the use of Alaska Power
9 Authority sponsored financing; and

10 WHEREAS Phase I studies shall provide for substantive public involvement
11 throughout the study process; and

12 WHEREAS legislative approval of project construction is required if
13 project feasibility and desirability result from the study process conducted
14 under Phase I activities;

15 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature urges the passage by
16 the Congress of the United States of the proposed amendments to P.L. 94-587
17 so that the Alaska Power Authority may go forward with a program of financing
18 and may enter into any necessary agreements pursuant to the proposed amend-
19 ments; and be it

20 FURTHER RESOLVED that, based on the plan outlined in the statement of
21 the Alaska Power Authority to the legislature and to the commissioner of com-
22 merce and economic development, the legislature agrees to the incurring of
23 indebtedness by the Alaska Power Authority contingent upon passage of amend-
24 ments to P.L. 94-587 in an amount necessary to finance the cost of the Phase
25 I feasibility studies of the Susitna Hydroelectric Project, including in-
26 terest; and be it

27 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Affairs Agency shall conduct or
28 contract for an independent review, in consultation with the Alaska Power
29 Authority, based on existing data, of the economic, financial, biological and

1 geophysical implications of the proposed Susitna Hydroelectric Project, and
2 shall report to the legislature by January 15, 1980.

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