

Introduced: 2/13/80
Referred: Resources

BY MILES, ANDERSON, COTTEN, BEIRNE,
BRANSON, BROWN, CARNEY, DUNCAN,
FREEMAN, FULLER, GUY, HAUGEN,
HURLBERT, MALONE, MILLER, MOSS,
MUNSON, O'CONNELL, OSTERBACK,
PARKER, PARR, ROGERS, SMITH AND
ZHAROFF

1 IN THE HOUSE

2 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 61

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Relating to the jurisdiction of the
6 Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

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

8 WHEREAS, consistent with the efforts of the federal government to reduce
9 dependence on petroleum products, the state is pursuing a policy of develop-
10 ing its renewable energy resources, including the development of potential
11 hydroelectric sites; and

12 WHEREAS the construction and operation of power projects at the most
13 significant sites having potential for development will reduce costs of
14 electricity for consumers and aid the long-term economic growth of the state;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, for various jurisdictional reasons specified in the Federal
17 Power Act, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission has licensing and permit
18 authority over construction, operation and maintenance for the development
19 and utilization of public works projects for electric power; and

20 WHEREAS a number of potential hydroelectric sites have been identified,
21 while others are in the initial phases of development, and the projects which
22 would be completed at these sites would either have a regional benefit, such
23 as the Susitna project in southcentral Alaska, or directly benefit individual
24 communities, including Bradley Lake on the Kenai Peninsula, Dayebus Creek at
25 Haines, Lake Elva near Dillingham, Grant Lake near Seward, the Kisaralik
26 River northeast of Bethel, Mennonite Creek near Port Lions, Power Creek at
27 Cordova, Reid Falls Creek near Skagway, Swan Lake in the vicinity of
28 Katchikan, Takatz Creek in the City and Borough of Sitka, Tazimina River in
29 the Bristol Bay region, Terror Lake on Kodiak Island, and Tye Lake near

1 Wrangell; and

2 WHEREAS it is in the best interests of the people of the state that
3 planning and development of these and other potential hydroelectric sites
4 continue without undue delay attributable to the Federal Energy Regulatory
5 Commission in the review and approval of license and permit applications;

6 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that it respectfully
7 requests the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to act expeditiously in
8 exercising its authority with respect to hydroelectric projects in Alaska by

9 (1) indicating at the earliest opportunity whether the Federal
10 Power Act confers jurisdiction on the commission with respect to the issuance
11 of licenses and permits for a particular hydroelectric project site;

12 (2) authorizing regulation of hydroelectric projects by the state
13 when that is possible; and

14 (3) accelerating action on requests for licenses and permits on
15 hydroelectric projects that must receive the consideration and approval of
16 the commission.

17 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Jimmy Carter,
18 President of the United States; the Honorable Charles B. Curtis, Chairman of
19 the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission; Mr. Eric Yould, Executive Director
20 of the Alaska Power Authority; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the
21 Honorable Mike Gravel, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S.
22 Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.

23
24
25
26
27
28
29