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1 IN THE SENATE

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 23

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5

Endorsing the application of the Department of Commerce and Economic Development for a rural development assistance demonstration grant.

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

10 WHEREAS the state is experiencing a major downturn in its economy due  
11 to the drop in oil revenue over the past two years; and

12 WHEREAS the people of the state are faced with rising unemployment,  
13 reduced state and local government services, a decrease in the level of  
14 business activity, and in many instances, the personal tragedy of the loss  
15 of a home; and

16 WHEREAS all areas of the state are being affected by the drop in oil  
17 revenue and the reduction of state and local services; and

18 WHEREAS the large size of the state and the sparse population of the  
19 rural parts of the state cause unique problems for the delivery of ser-  
20 vices; and

21 WHEREAS the rural areas of the state are a vital and important part of  
22 the state; and

23 WHEREAS the Department of Commerce and Economic Development has sub-  
24 mitted an application to the federal Economic Development Administration  
25 for a rural economic development assistance grant that would fund a demon-  
26 stration project to promote economic development, establish businesses, and  
27 increase job opportunities in the rural areas of the state;

28 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature endorses the applica-  
29 tion by the Department of Commerce and Economic Development for a rural

1 development assistance demonstration grant from the Economic Development  
2 Administration; and be it

3 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Economic Development Administration is  
4 requested to expedite the review and approval of the grant application.

5 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Malcolm  
6 Baldrige, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Commerce; and to the Honor-  
7 able Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the  
8 Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation  
9 in Congress.