

CS FOR SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 40 (RESOURCES)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE SENATE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Offered: 3/35/92

Referred: Rules

Sponsor(s): SENATORS JONES, Eliason, Duncan

A RESOLUTION

**1 Relating to identified hydroelectric sites and energy transmission and surface transportation
2 requirements for Southeast Alaska.**

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

**4 WHEREAS a transportation and utility corridor plan is vital for improving the economic future
5 of Southeast Alaska and would indicate to the federal government the state's desires for land use within
6 the Tongass National Forest, which comprises the majority of the land in Southeast Alaska; and**

**7 WHEREAS the traditional industries of fishing, timber, and mining and the developing tourism
8 industry will increase demand for energy production, energy distribution systems, and transportation
9 systems for the region; and**

**10 WHEREAS the communities of Southeast Alaska will need reliable, long-term sources of energy
11 for the future; and**

**12 WHEREAS the most efficient and reliable method for transmitting hydroelectric energy to the
13 communities of Southeast Alaska is through a power grid; and**

**14 WHEREAS the Alaska Energy Authority has identified potential sites for the development of
15 hydroelectric power throughout Southeast Alaska; and**

16 WHEREAS these potential hydroelectric sites can be developed by extension of energy

1 transmission and interconnection facilities; and

2 **WHEREAS** actions taken by the United States Congress and by the United States Forest Service
3 placing proposed transportation and utility corridors and potential hydroelectric sites in more restrictive
4 land use classifications would make it more difficult and more costly to develop; and

5 **WHEREAS** in 1987 and 1988 the Southeast Transportation Utility Corridor (SETUC) planning
6 group, a committee composed of representatives of the state and federal governments, drafted options
7 for transportation and utility corridors for Southeast Alaska and, in 1988, completed a report with maps
8 detailing the location of the recommended corridors;

9 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature affirms and supports the utility and
10 transportation corridor options that the State of Alaska and federal agencies have identified through the
11 planning activities of SETUC for Southeast Alaska; and be it

12 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the legislature strongly recommends that the United States
13 Congress and the United States Forest Service refrain from placing further restrictive land use
14 designations on the identified utility and transportation corridors and on potential hydroelectric sites.

15 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Patrick J. Leahy, Chair, Senate
16 Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee; the Honorable J. Bennett Johnston, Chair, Senate Energy
17 and Natural Resources Committee; the Honorable E (Kika) de la Garza, Chair, House Agriculture
18 Committee; the Honorable George Miller, Chair, House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee; F. Dale
19 Robertson, Chief, United States Forest Service, Department of Agriculture; Michael A. Barton, Regional
20 Forester, Tongass National Forest, U. S. Forest Service, Department of Agriculture; and to the Honorable
21 Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S.
22 Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.