

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 37

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

EIGHTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES HOFFMAN, MacLean, Foster, Olberg, Williams, Davidson, Nicholia, Mackie, Ulmer, Brown, Carney, Brice, Menard

Introduced: 3/30/93

Referred: Community & Regional Affairs, Health, Education & Social Services

A RESOLUTION

1 **Urging the Congress to enact H.R. 1033 or similar legislation authorizing**
2 **construction grants for publicly-owned treatment works in economically distressed**
3 **rural communities.**

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

5 **WHEREAS** over 90 percent of the wastewater facilities in Alaska Native villages have
6 **been assessed by the federal government as inadequate; and**

7 **WHEREAS** the Department of Environmental Conservation has identified that at least
8 **\$1,200,000,000 is needed to correct water and sewer problems in rural Alaska; and**

9 **WHEREAS** hepatitis A, dysentery, meningitis, and other waterborne diseases are
10 **serious health problems in communities that lack basic water and sewer systems; and**

11 **WHEREAS** many rural communities in Alaska are unable to attract the seafood
12 **processing industry onto their shores because their water and sewer facilities do not meet**
13 **industry standards; and**

14 **WHEREAS** income levels in most of rural Alaska are low and the cost of living is
15 **high, making it difficult for many villages to operate and maintain conventional sanitation**
16 **systems; and**

1 **WHEREAS** the Alaska Sanitation Task Force recommends increased federal
2 participation and increased coordination and cooperation between federal and state agencies
3 in addressing rural sanitation problems; and

4 **WHEREAS** H.R. 1033, which has been proposed in the 103rd Congress, would
5 establish a grant program for construction of publicly-owned treatment works in economically
6 distressed rural communities like those in Alaska;

7 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the Congress to enact H.R.
8 1033 or similar legislation to authorize construction grants for publicly-owned treatment works
9 in economically distressed rural communities.

10 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Al Gore, Vice-President of
11 the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Robert C. Byrd, President
12 Pro Tempore of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Thomas S. Foley, Speaker of the U.S. House
13 of Representatives; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski,
14 U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska
15 delegation in Congress.