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STATE OF ALASKA 1984 LEGISLATIVE SESSION  
FISCAL NOTE

Revision Date: \_\_\_\_\_

REQUEST :

Bill/Resolution No.: HB 689  
Title: Rural Electrification Loan  
Fund \_\_\_\_\_  
Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_  
Requestor: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Request: \_\_\_\_\_

FISCAL DETAIL

Agency Affected: Alaska Power Authority  
Program Category Affected: \_\_\_\_\_  
Development  
BRU, Program or Subprogram(s) Affected: \_\_\_\_\_  
Alaska Power Authority

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY 84	FY 85	FY 86	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89
OPERATING						
100 PERSONAL SERVICES						
200 TRAVEL						
300 CONTRACTUAL						
400 SUPPLIES						
500 EQUIPMENT						
600 LAND & STRUCTURES						
700 GRANTS, CLAIMS						
800 MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
CAPITAL	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
REVENUE	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND						
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL						

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

SOURCE OF FUNDS TO OFFSET FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL:

No expected fiscal impact from this bill.

ANALYSIS: Attach a separate page for analysis

Prepared By: Heinz Noonan Phone: (907) 276-0001  
Division: Alaska Power Authority Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Approved by Commissioner: Richard A. Lyon Date: 3/27/84  
Agency: Commerce & Economic Development

Distribution (by Agency preparing fiscal note):

Legislative Finance  
Legislative Sponsor  
Requestor  
Office of Management and Budget  
Impacted Agency(ies)

12/1/83

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(A) means a study conducted for the economic and environmental practicality of completing a proposed power project under AS 44.83.181;

(B) includes engineering and design work to meet the requirements for submission of a license application for a proposed new project to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission;

(9) "small-scale power production facility" means a facility which, by design, is to produce less than 25 megawatts of power. (§ 1 ch 278 SLA 1976; am §§ 21, 22 ch 156 SLA 1978; am §§ 26, 27 ch 83 SLA 1980; am §§ 10, 11 ch 133 SLA 1982)

Effect of amendments. — The 1982 amendment substituted the present definition for "power project" or "project" in paragraph (4) for the definition set out in the main pamphlet and substituted "electrical and thermal energy needs" for "power needs" in paragraph (7).

### Article 7. Susitna River Hydroelectric Project.

#### Sec. 44.83.325. Restrictions on contracting.

Editor's note. — Section 21, ch. 133, SLA 1982, provides: "Notwithstanding the provisions of AS 44.83.325, the Alaska Power Authority may enter into contracts under AS 44.83.300 — 44.83.360 for preliminary work without the approval required by AS 44.83.325. In this section, 'preliminary work' means the preparation of plans and studies and the preparation and submission of license applications, as well as other types of work, that must be

completed before actual construction of the Susitna River hydroelectric project, described in AS 44.83.300, may begin. This section does not authorize the Alaska Power authority to enter into contracts for the actual construction of the Susitna River hydroelectric project or for the preparation of the site of the Susitna River hydroelectric project without the approval required by AS 44.83.325."

### Article 8. Rural Electrification Revolving Loan Fund.

#### Section

361. Rural electrification revolving loan fund

363. Loan advisory committee

#### Sec. 44.83.361. Rural electrification revolving loan fund. (a)

The rural electrification revolving loan fund is established in the Alaska Power Authority. The fund consists of

- (1) appropriations made to the fund; and
- (2) principal payments on loans made under this section.

(b) The authority may make loans from the rural electrification revolving loan fund to electric utilities certified by the Alaska Public Utilities Commission. A loan from the fund may be made only for the purpose of extending new electric service into an area of the state that an electric utility may serve under a certificate of public convenience and necessity issued by the Alaska Public Utilities Commission. A loan may be made from the fund to an electric utility if the utility invests the money necessary to provide one pole, one span of line, one transformer, and one service drop for each consumer for whom immediate service would be provided by the extension of electric service. However, a loan may not be made from the fund unless

(1) the loan is recommended by a loan advisory committee appointed under AS 44.83.363; and

(2) the extension of electric service would provide immediate service to at least three consumers.

(c) A loan from the rural electrification revolving loan fund shall bear an annual rate of interest of two percent of the unpaid balance of the loan. Interest received on a loan made under this section must be transferred monthly to the commissioner of revenue for deposit in the general fund.

(d) When a loan is made by the authority under this section, the electric utility receiving the loan

(1) shall, in addition to the rates that it is authorized to charge, charge the consumers served by the electric service extended with the loan proceeds an amount sufficient to pay the interest costs of the loan;

(2) shall pay to the authority annually an amount equal to

(A) interest of two percent on the unpaid balance of the loan; and

(B) payments on the unpaid balance of the principal of the loan for each new consumer served by the electric service extended with the loan proceeds; payments on the unpaid balance of the principal of the loan shall be made at a rate equal to the difference between the actual cost of making the service connection to the consumers and the minimum investment per consumer required of the utility before a loan is made under (b) of this section.

(e) The authority shall

(1) adopt regulations necessary to carry out the provisions of this section;

(2) administer the rural electrification revolving loan fund; and

(3) submit to the legislature within the first 10 days of each regular legislative session a report of actions taken by the authority under this section and an accounting of the rural electrification revolving loan fund.

(f) In this section,

(1) "consumer" means a person, as defined in AS 01.10.060(7), or a governmental agency, if the person or governmental agency requests and offers to pay for electrical service to a facility or part of a facility;

the authority shall consider a person who, or a governmental agency that, offers to pay for electrical service to several facilities to be a separate consumer for each facility, if each facility is physically separate from another facility, other than through electric service lines, and if the person or governmental agency requests and offers to pay for electrical service to each facility;

(2) "facility" means a structure capable of receiving and using electrical energy; and

(3) "governmental agency" includes, with respect to the state or federal government or a municipal government, a legislative body, board of regents, administrative body, board, commission, committee, subcommittee, authority, council, agency, public corporation, school board, department, division, bureau, or other subordinate unit, whether advisory or otherwise, of the state, federal, or municipal government. (§ 1 ch 118 SLA 1981; am §§ 10 — 13 ch 89 SLA 1983)

Effect of amendments. — The 1983 amendment, effective July 22, 1983, deleted "and interest" following "principal" in paragraph (a)(2), added the second sentence of subsection (c), substituted "extended with the loan proceeds" for "during the preceding year for which the loan was made" in paragraph (d)(2)(B), and added subsection (f).

Sec. 44.83.363. Loan advisory committee. When an application for a rural electrification loan is submitted to the authority under AS 44.83.361, the authority shall appoint a local advisory committee from persons residing in the area that the applicant utility is certified to serve. The loan advisory committee shall consider the loan application, and shall recommend whether the loan application is to be approved or disapproved. A favorable recommendation from the loan advisory committee shall be based on a determination that development in the area of the proposed extension of electric service is likely to provide for full repayment of the loan under AS 44.83.361(d) within 10 years. In making that determination the committee shall consider

- (1) permanence of the premises to be served by the extension;
- (2) land use patterns in the area;
- (3) access for the line that would be installed with loan proceeds;
- (4) availability of other utility service in the area; and
- (5) the economic feasibility of the extension of electric service with the proceeds of the loan. (§ 1 ch 118 SLA 1981)

Article 9. Energy Program for Alaska.

Section	Section
380. Program established	390. Reappropriation of fund balance
382. Power development fund established	392. Lapse of excess appropriations
384. Use of fund balance	394. [Repealed]
386. Investment of fund	396. Operation of power project
388. Allotment to projects	398. Sale of power from power project

# Alaska State Legislature

POUCH V  
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811  
907/465-4821



REPRESENTATIVE RICK UEHLING  
CHAIRMAN  
REPRESENTATIVE WALT FURNACE  
REPRESENTATIVE NILO KOPONEN  
REPRESENTATIVE JERRY WARD  
REPRESENTATIVE RON WENDTE

## House Special Committee on State Loans

To: Rep. John Cowdery, Chairman  
House Labor & Commerce Committee

From: Rep. Rick Uehling, Chairman *RAU*  
House Special Committee on State Loans

Subject: HB 689

Date: March 5, 1984

HB 689, An Act relating to the rural electrification loan fund, is presently in your Committee.

During our Loans Committee hearings on HB 650, which contains an appropriation for the Alaska Power Authority - Rural Electrification Loan Fund, testimony was received about the Loan fund and the need to clarify the existing statutes.

As Chairman of the House Loans Committee I would like to request that you schedule action on this measure because it will eliminate those discrepancies and make it possible to use the funds in the Rural Electrification Loan Fund. It is important that this be done before additional appropriations are made for projects such as the Craig-Klawock Intertie.

Thank you very much for your attention to this matter.

RAU/as

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RAU/as



# ALASKA RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION, INC.

237 E. FIREWEED LANE • SUITE 301  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99503 • (907) 276-3235

March 16, 1984

Representative John Cowdery, Chairman  
House Labor and Commerce Committee  
Pouch V  
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Representative Cowdery:

House Bill 689 is essential to clean up the statutory language authorizing the rural electrification revolving loan fund so that program can finally be made to work as intended.

This loan fund was created as a section of SB 25 in 1981 by including in that historic legislation the contents of a bill sponsored by then Representative Pappy Moss. As a result, there is almost no separate legislative history which would have given the power authority some guidance in administering the program. For anyone not intimately involved with line extensions of an electric utility, the present statutory language is quite confusing. The result of all this is that the rural electrification revolving loan fund has never worked as intended.

The purpose of this loan fund is to extend the backbone electric distribution system through developing rural areas. The target areas at present do not have enough population to meet the definitions of feasibility set out by the lending institutions such as the Rural Electrification Administration. However, the target areas are expected to develop rather quickly once utility service becomes available.

This is a narrow purpose program, and I would not envision that it would ever become very large in terms of the total funding it requires. The concept for this program was originally developed to meet specific problems around Fairbanks like the Goldstream area and in the Mat-Su Borough like the Caswell Lakes area. After three years, not one dime has gone to meet the very serious needs of those areas and other like them across the state.

Enclosed is a sectional analysis which briefly describes the contents of HB 689. The key feature of this program necessary to make it work is that the payback period has to be for an indeterminate period rather than for a set term of years. This is

DEMOCRACY IN ACTION

Representative John Cowdery  
March 16, 1984  
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an unusual feature of a loan program, but it is essential in this case. If the term of years is fixed, the utility is the one at risk that the anticipated development will in fact occur. REA will not permit its borrowers to accept loans for projects which do not meet the REA definition of feasibility. If these projects could meet the REA feasibility test, we would borrow from REA and would not need this program.

The concept of making the term of the loan indeterminate and having the payback schedule tied to the actual rate of development was contained in the original legislation. The power authority has never accepted that legislative policy, and they have in fact arbitrarily set a 20 year term by regulation. That is why this program has never worked.

We think HB 689 is a very good bill, and we ask you and your committee to support it. However, there is one amendment which is needed to prevent possible confusion in the future. As used in this program, the term "rural" simply means an area where the population density is low. I would propose that a new definition be included in section 5 of the bill to read:

"rural area" means an area in which the number of consumers to be served by an electric distribution line in the year in which it is constructed does not exceed five per mile of line.

Sincerely,



David Hutchens  
Executive Director

House Bill No. 689

Sectional Analysis

Section 1 states the legislative intent that this program is to help finance pioneer electric distribution lines through developing rural areas.

Section 2 provides that loans may be made to public utilities to build distribution lines into rural areas not receiving electric service if (1) the loan is recommended by a loan advisory committee, (2) the line extension will serve at least three consumers in its first year and (3) the utility has a certificate from the APUC to serve that area.

Section 3 provides that the utility shall collect 2% interest on this loan from its consumers served by the line extension and shall pay that interest to the APA annually with its principal payment. The principal repayment formula is geared to the number of new consumers being served by this line extension rather than to a specific term of years. The cost of the line is divided into units consisting of its average cost per 350 feet (the approximate distance of a span of line). The utility repays one unit of the principal for each new consumer served by the line.

Section 4 vests the administrative authority with the APA and requires an annual report to the legislature.

Section 5 defines the terms used in this legislation.

Section 6 limits the amount of a loan to the amount necessary to build an overhead line, but a more expensive method of construction may be used if the additional cost is financed from some other source. The utility is required to invest from other sources one unit of cost (the average cost for 350 feet of line) for each consumer to be served in the first year.

Section 7 authorizes the executive director of the APA to appoint a loan advisory committee from residents of the assigned service area of the applicant utility. The committee has the responsibility to advise whether or not development of the area in question is likely to occur rapidly enough to provide full repayment of the loan within 20 years.