

STATE OF ALASKA  
THE LEGISLATURE

2009

Source

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Legislative  
Resolve No.

27



Urging the United States Congress to classify hydroelectric power as a renewable and alternative energy source.

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

**WHEREAS** fossil fuels such as oil, natural gas, and coal are important sources of energy for the electric power supply system of the United States; and

**WHEREAS** the cost of most fossil fuels, particularly oil, has increased dramatically in recent years; and

**WHEREAS** increases in the cost of fossil fuels such as oil have caused, and continue to cause, substantial increases in the electric bills of residential, business, and governmental rate payers at a time when the economy of the United States is in a major recession; and

**WHEREAS** the United States is dependent on foreign sources for a majority of its oil supply; and

**WHEREAS** oil and other fossil fuels are finite resources that contribute to growing worldwide concerns over carbon and other environmental effects; and

**WHEREAS** Alaskans, particularly those in rural parts of the state, are dependent on oil-fired electric generation with retail rates as high as \$1 a kilowatt-hour; and

**WHEREAS** hydroelectric power is a viable source of clean, renewable, and long-lasting electric energy in many areas of the state; and

**WHEREAS** hydroelectric energy can be developed in Alaska using high-elevation lakes and run-of-the-river systems that have few or no negative environmental effects; and

**WHEREAS** it is the policy of the state to encourage development of its abundant hydroelectric potential and wind, geothermal, and other renewable and alternative energy sources to reduce dependence on fossil fuels for electric power generation and to reduce the cost of electricity to rate payers; and

**WHEREAS** some federal laws and federal renewable and alternative energy programs do not classify hydroelectric power as a renewable or alternative energy source; and

**WHEREAS** regions of the United States outside of Alaska have limited water supplies or water shortages that could lead to classifying hydroelectric power as nonrenewable, but many areas of Alaska have ample water supplies that are capable of providing a renewable energy source for hydroelectric projects in the state;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States Congress to take the necessary action to classify hydroelectric power as a renewable and alternative energy source so that the state can participate in federal programs without restriction to facilitate development of the state's hydroelectric resources for the benefit of its residents.

**COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of the United States; the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Harry Reid, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Mitch McConnell, Minority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Mark Begich, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.