



LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTIONS 2012

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ALASKA POWER ASSOCIATION R E S O L U T I O N

A Resolution Urging the Creation of an Urgent Implementation Plan for Alaska Energy Policy (12-1)

Alaska is in the midst of an energy crisis. Communities statewide are faced with aging generation and transmission facilities. The unstable price and supply of fuel is increasingly impacting Alaskans everywhere.

Alaska Power Association lauds the 26th Alaska Legislature's House and Senate Special Committees on Energy for their collaborative work with stakeholder groups to develop sound energy policy for Alaska.

The membership of APA views the next logical step as the creation of an implementation plan that provides support and funding sources to short-, mid-, and long-term generation and transmission facilities, and facilitates fuel development and storage infrastructure projects consistent with the State-sponsored Regional Integrated Resources Plan or other appropriate regional planning effort, if such a plan is in place, with financial commitments from the State.

Alaska Power Association urges the 27th Alaska Legislature and the Parnell Administration to make the implementation plan of its historic energy policy the highest priority for the 2012 legislative session.

APA further urges the State to develop and maintain current Alaska power statistics that demonstrate quantifiable progress towards the goals established in the plan.

(Adopted Dec. 2009; updated Dec. 2011)

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ALASKA POWER ASSOCIATION R E S O L U T I O N

A Resolution Urging Capital Funding in Support of Alaska Energy Policy (12-2)

In light of the ambitious and aggressive goals set forth in the Alaska Sustainable Energy Act (SB 220) and State Energy Policy (HB 306), the Alaska electric utility sector needs sources of capital for infrastructure and transmission.

Alaska Power Association urges the Alaska Legislature to fully support the following funding mechanisms:

- Extend the authorizing language for the Renewable Energy Grant Fund, which supports the intent of the legislature to provide funds annually for projects recommended by the Renewable Energy Fund Advisory Committee;
- Properly capitalize the Power Project Loan Fund, enabling meaningful funding for infrastructure projects; and
- Establish a State of Alaska-funded and administered revolving loan fund for the sustainable financing of infrastructure projects.

(Adopted Dec. 2010, updated Dec. 2011)

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ALASKA POWER ASSOCIATION R E S O L U T I O N

A Resolution Supporting Full Funding for Power Cost Equalization (12-3)

Alaska Power Association strongly supports full funding for Power Cost Equalization. We urge the Alaska Legislature to continue the PCE benefit at 100% for FY12 and to fully fund PCE, utilizing earnings from the PCE Endowment Fund, in the Administration's FY13 operating budget.

(Adopted Dec. 2005; updated Dec. 2008; updated Nov. 2009; updated Dec. 2010; updated Dec. 2011)

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ALASKA POWER ASSOCIATION R E S O L U T I O N

A Resolution Addressing Unaffordable Energy in Rural Alaska (12-4)

Alaska's citizens are subject to the most extreme disparity in the cost of energy for homes and businesses of any state in the union. Electricity to a homeowner can cost as little as 10 cents a kilowatt-hour (kWh) and as much as \$1.20 per kWh. Heating fuel can cost as little as \$11 per million BTU (natural gas in Anchorage) and as much as \$75 and more in rural Alaska.

The cost of energy in rural Alaska has resulted in a tremendous financial burden on virtually every resident and business in these remote communities. New businesses are stymied due to the crippling cost of energy. Existing businesses are crippled and frequently forced into closure due to the high cost of energy. Schools must apply ever increasing percentages of their operating revenues towards energy costs, diverting funds from essential educational needs.

The survival of rural Alaska depends upon immediate and real relief from the cost of energy needed for electricity, heat and transportation. Rural Alaskans, despite their geographic location, are nonetheless entitled to reasonably priced energy equivalent to what it costs in urban Alaska.

The State of Alaska is strongly urged to take immediate, meaningful steps to ensure that every Alaskan has access to affordable, reliable energy for their electricity, heating and transportation needs.

(Adopted Dec. 2009)

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ALASKA POWER ASSOCIATION

R E S O L U T I O N

A Resolution Urging Continued Funding of the Emerging Energy Technology Fund (12-5)

Alaska Power Association members are facing the challenge of providing reliable and cost-effective electric power service while paying rapidly escalating costs for fuel with no substantial financial relief in sight.

This unfortunate reality, coupled with advances in the application of alternative energy technology in cold weather climates, is moving the consideration of distributed generation and renewable energy sources to the forefront of many electric utilities' long-term strategic plans. The Alaska Power Association Board of Directors recognizes that established renewable energy projects such as wind farms and alternative energy sources such as nuclear may play an important role in Alaska's future energy supply.

Without a funding mechanism to assist Alaska's electric utilities with researching and developing renewable energy generation, whether it be in the form of alternative energy project grants, low interest loans or production tax credits, the utilities are forced to decide between either not pursuing such opportunities due to their extraordinarily high capital costs or raising electric rates to help offset the cost of adding new generation into the energy portfolio. Alaska's electric utilities will pursue renewable energy projects as long as they make economic sense on behalf of the consumers.

Alaska Power Association urges the Legislature to continue funding the Emerging Energy Technology Fund to assist with the research, development and eventual application of alternative energy sources into the Alaska electric utility generation portfolio.

(Adopted March 2006; updated Oct. 2007; updated Nov. 2009; updated Dec. 2011)

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ALASKA POWER ASSOCIATION R E S O L U T I O N

A Resolution Opposing the Implementation of Mandatory Renewable Electricity Standards in Alaska (12-6)

Many states in the Lower 48 have enacted Renewable Electricity Standards (RES). These standards compel covered utilities to acquire a stated percentage of the energy they sell from specific renewable resources. The selection of resources, the deadline for meeting different percentages, the percentages themselves, and other details vary widely among the various state standards and proposals.

More than 90 percent of Alaska's electric consumers are served by locally owned, not-for-profit utilities — a unique situation in the U.S., mirrored only by Nebraska. Absent the profit-making motive, these utilities already strive to deliver safe, reliable and cost-effective power.

A broad, balanced power supply portfolio can help electric utilities reduce their power supply costs and risks. Renewable energy can provide one part of a balanced portfolio. In many cases, the higher costs associated with renewable energy are outweighed by their non-economic benefits to the electric utility. Alaska's electric utilities pursue renewable energy projects when they make economic sense on behalf of the consumers.

Alaska Power Association (APA) strongly supports the research and development of renewable energy, the responsible inclusion of cost-effective renewable resources in the energy portfolio, and efforts to educate policymakers and the public about renewable energy.

Furthermore, the APA membership firmly believes that an arbitrary enforcement of a mandatory Renewable Electricity Standard by the State of Alaska for electric utilities would ultimately raise electric rates for consumers, thereby lowering the overall quality of life in the state and increasing economic disparity between rural and urban regions. A federal RES should allow states to define what counts as a renewable resource for at least half of the federal standard.

(Adopted Feb. 2006; updated Oct. 2007; updated Nov. 2009; updated Dec. 2011)

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ALASKA POWER ASSOCIATION R E S O L U T I O N

A Resolution Urging the State of Alaska to Provide a Match to Denali Commission Funding of Energy Infrastructure (12-7)

The Denali Commission was established by Congress in 1998 with the objective of establishing code-compliant energy facilities in rural Alaska. The commission was intended to be a joint State-Federal partnership in this endeavor.

Since inception, the Denali Commission has provided \$478 million in federal energy grants to develop rural tank farm and energy production facilities. As Alaska's congressional influence evolves, it is critical that the State of Alaska recognize the importance of this program to the sustainability of rural Alaska. In doing so, the State provides much needed funding while illustrating to Congress the priority of this program to Alaska.

Alaska Power Association urges the State of Alaska to provide matching State funds to assist the Denali Commission in achieving the mission of providing safe, code-compliant electric generation and bulk fuel tank farm facilities to serve the rural citizens of Alaska.

(Adopted Dec. 2009; updated Dec. 2010; updated Dec. 2011)

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ALASKA POWER ASSOCIATION R E S O L U T I O N

A Resolution Urging Local Parameters for Climate Change Policy (12-8)

The impacts of global warming/climate change are being seen in Alaska to a far greater extent than anywhere in the United States. Because of their familiarity with local conditions, Alaska's electric utilities are acutely aware of the issues surrounding climate change and that climate change has been linked to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, requiring energy providers to engage in policy and technology development to reduce GHG emissions.

Alaska Power Association (APA) members face growing uncertainty over how U.S. climate change policy will be formulated and what impacts it may have on the provision of reliable, affordable and safe electric power to Alaskans. In light of these uncertainties, APA urges inclusion of the following principles in any climate change policy:

- Congressional and/or local efforts to implement GHG reduction initiatives should be based on the goal of lowering GHG emissions and not on raising government revenues to fund unrelated activities.
- If a GHG reduction target is established for the Alaska electric utility industry, APA urges that each utility have appropriate flexibility in achieving target reduction goals.
- All sectors of the economy should have GHG reduction targets and timelines for achieving those targets, proportional to their contribution to GHG emissions.
- Consumer-owned utilities' local control must be recognized, including the authority to meet a GHG reduction target by means of their choosing.
- Hydropower must be recognized as a renewable, emission-free resource and, as such, be treated like all other renewable resources in meeting GHG reduction targets.
- Current and past actions implemented by Alaska's electric utilities to prevent or reduce GHG emissions, including renewable energy generation, energy efficiency, conservation and GHG mitigation programs, should all count toward meeting a GHG reduction target.
- Congressional efforts should exclude any form of auction in carbon markets and implement a hard cost "cap" to provide cost planning certainty for utilities and to protect consumers against price volatility, fraud and market manipulation, as occurred in the Western electricity markets in 2000-2001.
- Programs that encourage the development and deployment of renewable and clean energy facilities must provide incentives that are comparable for all sectors of the electric utility industry, both private and public.
- GHG targets must be adjusted if adequate renewable generation, associated transmission, and firming resources cannot be brought on-line in a timely manner because of litigation (over siting or other issues) or if the necessary technology does not exist.
- It is important to realize that fuel diversity is paramount to power reliability and affordability, especially in Alaska where transportation and energy infrastructure are limited. A GHG reduction program must not sacrifice power reliability by eliminating access to necessary fuel. Therefore, allowances must be made for Alaska electric utilities located in areas where renewable resources are limited, non-existent, or unaffordable.

Alaska Power Association urges Congress to take all of these recommendations into consideration when considering any and all climate change-related legislation and its impacts on the electric industry and its consumers.

(Adopted Dec. 2009; updated Dec. 2011)

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ALASKA POWER ASSOCIATION R E S O L U T I O N

A Resolution Seeking State Funds to Remove Danger Trees on State-owned Lands (12-9)

Bark beetle infestations have devastated spruce trees in large areas of the state. The dead spruce trees remain standing and over time will fall to the ground. Falling trees near power lines can cause extensive damage to the power lines causing service outages.

Utilities have programs to clear trees from the rights of way for their power lines. "Danger trees" are trees outside the rights-of-way that can fall into a power line. Alaska Power Association supports State grants to electric utilities to cut danger trees on State-owned lands.

(Adopted Dec. 2006; updated Oct. 2007)

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ALASKA POWER ASSOCIATION R E S O L U T I O N

A Resolution Supporting Construction of an Alaska Natural Gas Pipeline (12-10)

Alaska Power Association strongly encourages our Governor, Congressional Delegation, and Legislature to take all reasonable actions to facilitate, and, if it is in the State's best interests, actively participate in the prudent development of an Alaska Natural Gas pipeline that will bring North Slope natural gas to market immediately. Alaska Power Association further encourages the use of Alaska royalty natural gas in communities along the pipeline route.

(Adopted Dec. 2004; updated 2006; updated Nov. 2009; updated Dec. 2010; updated Dec. 2011)

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ALASKA POWER ASSOCIATION R E S O L U T I O N

A Resolution in Support of a Credit Reserve Account within ANGDA (12-11)

Recently the Alaska Natural Gas Development Authority (ANGDA) participated in open seasons for both main line gas pipeline projects through the Natural Gas Supply Company (NGSC). It has negotiated a rate that is very attractive for at least one quarter of the average daily requirement for Southcentral electric utilities that serve about 75% of the population in Alaska. The savings over the life of the project has been estimated at \$150-\$200 million.

ANGDA is working with the legislature on a bill to create a reserve fund that would satisfy the credit requirement to be a major gasoline shipper. As this is simply a guarantee and not an actual expenditure, the requested \$47 million appropriation would be held and would only be expended if there were a failure and default of one of the participating electric utility companies.

Alaska Power Association supports legislation that authorizes the credit reserve account within ANGDA and recommends an appropriation of \$47 million to start the reserve fund.

(Adopted Feb. 2011)

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ALASKA POWER ASSOCIATION

R E S O L U T I O N

A Resolution Urging Congress to Formally Recognize Hydropower as a Renewable Source of Energy (12-12)

Hydroelectric power is a proven source of renewable, clean and long-lasting electric energy in Alaska and many other states. The efficacy of hydropower continues to grow as fossil fuels decrease in availability, increase in price, and are the focus of ever increasing environmental regulation.

The United States is increasingly dependent on foreign supplies of oil, which is still the generation fuel for many of Alaska's rural communities. In recent years, diesel oil has drastically increased in price, resulting in electric rates higher than \$1 per kilowatt-hour for some rural communities in Alaska.

The State of Alaska and many Alaska Power Association members are striving to develop viable forms of renewable and alternative energy such as wind, geothermal and hydropower.

However, the development of renewable energy in Alaska is severely impeded when hydropower is not recognized as a renewable or alternative energy source in some federal laws and programs.

The 26th Alaska Legislature passed without dissent a resolution, CSHJR 25, which urges Congress to classify hydroelectric power as a renewable and alternative energy source so the State and electric utilities may participate in federal programs without restriction.

Alaska Power Association joins the State of Alaska in urging Congress and the Executive Branch to formally recognize hydropower as a renewable source of energy so more Alaskan communities may enjoy the benefits of this important renewable energy source for decades to come.

(Adopted Dec. 2010; updated Dec. 2011)

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ALASKA POWER ASSOCIATION R E S O L U T I O N

A Resolution Urging EPA to Consider Economic Impacts in Implementing Air Quality Regulations (12-13)

Rural Alaskans pay some of the highest electric bills in the nation. Recent and future Environmental Protection Agency regulations will create an additional economic burden to rural utility rate payers. In just one example, the RICE-NESHAP ZZZZ regulation (40CFR Part 63, Subpart ZZZZ) will cause a substantial increase in the cost of power for rural Alaska by requiring retrofitting of diesel generator exhaust stacks, continual monitoring of diesel generator emissions, and conversion of all diesel generators to Ultra Low Sulfur Diesel by May 2013.

Rural communities are exempted from the requirements of RICE-NESHAP. EPA defines a rural community as one that is not on the Federal Highway/Marine Highway System. This definition excludes many rural communities on the road or marine highway system that are isolated, stand-alone electric systems not interconnected to a larger electrical grid.

This EPA regulation will severely damage the economy of rural Alaska by making the cost of living (via the cost of power) higher than the local economy can sustain. EPA's focus in implementing air quality regulations should be to assist communities in reducing emissions not indiscriminately dictating tighter air quality standards without regard to cost or economic burden.

Alaska Power Association urges EPA to provide special circumstances or exemptions for rural communities due to imposed economic burdens through new air quality regulations. Isolated communities and electric cooperatives that have few or no alternatives for cheaper energy need a reprieve from the economic burden of changing air quality regulation.

(Adopted Dec. 2010)

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ALASKA POWER ASSOCIATION R E S O L U T I O N

A Resolution Urging Alaska's Congressional Delegation to Require Scientific Evidence when Implementing Environmental Regulations (12-14)

There is no scientific evidence that the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) will reduce global warming. There is no scientific evidence that justifies why EPA has chosen a 70% CO emissions reduction with the RICE-NESHAP ZZZZ regulation (40CFR Part 63, Subpart ZZZZ) as opposed to 50% reduction or 30% reduction or 5% reduction. There is no scientific study that defines what quantitative limits for greenhouse gases meet the balance of environmental stewardship and economic growth/prosperity.

To simply dictate a reduction in emissions, but not define why the reduction is scientifically necessary or what limits are needed to achieve some scientific goal, is irresponsible. Decisions of EPA impact the personal finances of every citizen in the US. These decisions need to be supported with facts and necessity.

Alaska Power Association urges our Congressional Delegation to seek to enact controls on the unchecked power of government regulatory agencies by requiring valid justification for agency decisions. New or changing regulations must be supported with scientific evidence of their necessity.

(Adopted Dec. 2010)

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ALASKA POWER ASSOCIATION R E S O L U T I O N

A Resolution Recommending the Elimination of Impediments to the Development of Hydroelectric Power Projects and Other Sources of Renewable Energy Within National Forests (12-15)

Government at all levels, including the Obama Administration, electric utilities, and our consumers are embracing development of renewable energy sources for the production of electricity. Renewable energy sources have environmental, economic and social benefits that are well documented. Hydroelectric and geothermal energy are among the cleanest of all renewable resources and the most cost effective during the long, low-maintenance lives of the projects.

Alaska is blessed with an abundance of hydro resources from its lakes and streams that can be built with minimal environmental impact. Most new hydro development in Alaska replaces costly, finite and less environmentally benign fossil generation fuels, specifically diesel, coal and natural gas. Geothermal resources are also abundant in Alaska and replace fossil fuels at low cost.

Special use permits necessary for federal approval of hydro projects withdrawn by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) under the Federal Power Act of 1920 that are within Inventoried Roadless Areas (IRAs) of national forests must be individually signed by the Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Roads needed to move equipment from tidewater to areas withdrawn for hydro projects by the FERC that pass through IRAs are prohibited by the 2001 Roadless Rule. 36 C.F.R. § 294.12 (a). Transmission lines through IRAs and roads needed to maintain them are likewise prohibited, adding cost to hydro projects that are authorized.

Projects which must be permitted under the Mineral Leasing Act, including geothermal resources, that were not in existence on January 12, 2001, are prohibited by the 2001 Roadless Rule. 36 C.F.R. § 294.12 (b). (See also 66 Fed. Reg. 3244, at 3256 January 12, 2001).

Prior rights-of-way, easements and other authorizations issued or managed by the United States Forest Service may need to be modified to not impede the development of otherwise acceptable projects that pass through IRAs. The 2001 Roadless Rule will either prohibit or add time to the hydro project approval process at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), seriously jeopardizing the three-year timeframe within which applicants are bound to perfect their FERC permits. The 2001 Roadless Rule also creates impediments to the accessibility and expansion of existing hydropower project facilities.

Alaska Power Association urges Alaska's Congressional delegation and their fellow members of Congress, the Governor's Office, the Obama Administration and federal agencies such as USDA and FERC to work collaboratively and expeditiously to eliminate the burdensome and, in some cases, fatal impediments to hydro and geothermal development caused by the 2001 Roadless Rule and the need for the Secretary for Agriculture's personal signature on Roadless Rule designation special use permits and mandatory forest plan amendments, where national forest lands are involved.

APA further urges the highest level of support from the above-mentioned lawmakers and agencies for ensuring that the US Forest Service works cooperatively with project proponents and others to eliminate unnecessary impediments to project development and continued maintenance and expansion of existing hydropower created by prior use authorizations.

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ALASKA POWER ASSOCIATION R E S O L U T I O N

A Resolution Urging Continued Federal Support of the Denali Commission (12-16)

The Denali Commission was established by Congress in 1998 with the express mission of building essential safe, code-compliant infrastructure in rural Alaska.

Since inception, the commission has been the primary investor in critical infrastructure such as health clinics, power generation facilities and bulk fuel tank farms in dozens of rural Alaskan communities, but tens of thousands of Alaskans are still without rudimentary health services or code-compliant energy facilities.

The work of the Denali Commission is less than half complete, yet the federal administration and Congress have reduced funding for the commission by more than two thirds in recent years.

As citizens of the United States of America, rural Alaskans must be assured a reliable and affordable provision of electric service and heating fuel.

Alaska Power Association urges the Obama Administration and Congress to restore funding to the Denali Commission so that they can continue their life-saving mission of providing essential safe, code-compliant infrastructure to the rural residents of Alaska.

(Adopted Dec. 2009; updated Dec. 2010)

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ALASKA POWER ASSOCIATION R E S O L U T I O N

A Resolution Urging Support for the USDA Rural Utilities Service High Energy Cost Grant Program (12-17)

The USDA Rural Utilities Service High Energy Cost Grant Program provides grants for rural communities with extremely high energy costs (where the average residential expenditure for home energy is at least 275 percent of the national average) to acquire, construct, extend, upgrade, and otherwise improve energy generation, transmission, or distribution facilities.

The High Energy Cost Grant Program was authorized by Congress in the 2000 Rural Electrification Act because it covered a gap in programs that desperately needed to be filled. The funds are dispersed via a national competitive process.

The program was funded at \$30 million in FY 2003. Since then, annual funding has decreased dramatically and funding for the next fiscal year is in jeopardy. Reducing the program will not only constrain economic activity in rural areas but also worsen the nation's overall economy and unemployment, and contribute to unaffordable energy costs in rural areas where the per capita income is already the lowest in the country. Furthermore, an enormous amount of work remains to be done in Alaska to bring rural power plants up to acceptable national standards.

Alaska Power Association urges Congress and the Obama Administration to restore funding for the USDA High Energy Cost Grant Program to \$30 million.

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