

December 16, 2019

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary
US Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave, SW
Washington D.C. 20250

RE: Roadless Rule Comments

Dear Secretary Perdue,

I would like to preface my comments with the statement that I am associated with many business and organizational interests and have business experience in seafood, commercial fishing, mining services, tourism, and renewable energy development for several decades all of which have occurred in Southeast, Alaska. Although I am associated with many organizations such as the Juneau Commission on Sustainability, the Alaska Independent Power Producers Association among others and including a hydropower development mentioned several times in the DEIS, my comments are my own. I would also state that it is an honor, opportunity, and privilege to live and work in the Tongass for over 50 years and have lived through all episodes and turns of the Roadless Rule history, it's legal developments and where we stand today. To put matters in a historical context, it is very understandable why this special land territory was jealously guarded and protected by the Tlingit and Haida peoples whose ancestral lands that modern-day Southeast Alaskans now have the benefit to inhabit. The Tongass is blessed with abundant resources: hydropower, minerals, rare earth minerals, geothermal resources, fishing, timber, and scenic resources that are breathtaking and the envy of the world. Luke 12:48 commends us that for whom much is provided, much is required. As collective stewards of the Tongass National Forest, much is required.

We are at a Roadless crossroads; can we collectively and sustainably develop the Tongass resources in a productive and harmonized nature? Or do we bury the treasure by cementing a Roadless Rule that would preclude responsible development now and for future generations of Alaskans/Americans?

My comments on the Roadless Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) primarily focus that the Roadless Rule is a defacto foreclosure to responsible renewable energy development and that the DEIS is lacking an acknowledgment and analysis that responsible renewable energy development in the Tongass National Forest has significant climate change benefits and reduction of emissions benefits through the displacement of fossil fuel use in Southeast Alaska. Advocation and support for renewable energy development are aligned with the official policy of the multi-use purpose of the Tongass National Forest.

Public Law 106-511 (2000) established an authorization for the Southeast Alaska Intertie (Exhibit A) would interconnect all Southeast Alaska communities to sustainable, lower cost and clean hydropower generated in and for Tongass Forest communities and industry that would displace diesel electrical generation and diesel heating while reducing emissions and Green House Gasses now and forever. Apparently, in all 585 pages of the DEIS, there is not one mention of the Southeast Intertie or the Public Law creating its authorization (although all other relevant Public Laws were cited) or the fact that

virtually every community of Southeast Alaska is on record supporting the Southeast Intertie (Exhibit B). Further, the Roadless DEIS is noticeably absent on the recognition and protection of the several powersite classifications authorized in perpetuity to several hydropower sites in the Tongass. These powersites are not trivial as mineral exploration and other uses/claims are prohibited or restricted on these sites. However, reading the DEIS, one would not know that these federally protected Tongass powersite classification sites even exist.

The USFS has an extensive list of the over 200 hydropower sites identified in Southeast Alaska in *Waterpowers of Southeast Alaska-1947* (with earlier and later studies verifying these sites). The USFS is internally aware of every powersite classification in Southeast Alaska. My purpose in raising federal powersite classifications and the Southeast Intertie issue is that all Alternatives except for Alternative 6 do not permit or recognize the legal standing and body of law related to US federal powersite classification on select hydropower resources and the Public Law authorizing the Southeast Intertie. Only Alternative 6 protects the pre-existing powersite classifications and the Southeast Intertie Public Law 106-511, both of which were established by Congress, not an executive branch rule such as the Roadless Rule. For further understanding about powersite classifications, I refer you to the Department of Interior publication, "It has been debated, decided and declared, A chronical of the requirements for the Waterpower and Reservoir Resources Program", May 2000. Bureau of Land Management. National Applied Resource Sciences Center.

Additionally, the DEIS does not address the impacts of an ever-changing Southeast Alaska energy landscape where if we do not connect smaller, primarily Native Alaskan village communities to a unified Southeast Intertie grid, they will be forever subjugated to expensive (and a heavy pollution source of emissions) based diesel generation. The current diesel dependency is already economically crippling and disadvantageously impacting these communities due to their lack of access to lower-cost, clean energy through hydropower and intertie resources. The Roadless Rule Alternative 1 will regulatorily and unfortunately eliminate fiscally prudent and market-based hydropower development and interties. Alternatives 2 through 5 cause any proposed or permitted hydropower or intertie development to face regulatory uncertainty, increased investor and government risk and therefore precludes their financial development of the project...forever.

Consider this preclusionary bias against federal power site classification hydropower sites, USFS recognized hydropower and geothermal resources in the Tongass and bias against the Southeast Intertie (why else would they not be mentioned in the DEIS?) as a backdrop against the fact that within the Tongass National Forest there is the greatest disparity of electrical costs of anywhere in the Nation. We have non-intertie connected communities suffering high unemployment, social problems and a lower standard of living due to electrical power costs that exceed 5 times the national average for electricity (due to diesel, lower economies of scale, and no interties to low-cost hydropower). Juxtaposed against this national disgrace, we have predominately urban Southeast Alaska communities on hydropower (primarily built pre-Roadless Rule) based electricity that's cost is closely aligned with the national average for electricity. It is not just Native Alaskan communities without interties that benefit from a repeal of the Roadless Rule, but also other remote development interests which would have their regulatory fuel handling and emission compliance much easier to attain with access to clean, renewable energy.

Interestingly, the USFS removed the Transportation Utility System Land Use Designation (TUS LUD) with the 2016 version of the TLMP. I would suggest that such removal was misguided, and the TUS LUD should be reinstated for the reasons I have brought forward but would also add and recognize that the development of hydropower has profound climate change and greenhouse beneficial impacts in Southeast Alaska.

Transporting, importing and burning fuel oil into the Tongass with the nature of inevitable fuel spills and emissions to generate electricity unnecessarily contributes to GHG emissions and a large carbon footprint. This phenomenon is directly caused, in part, by the Roadless Rule and its restrictions on hydropower development and transmission interties. The DEIS discusses climate change and carbon sequestration of the Tongass forest for environmental habitat but fails to address how Tongass based hydropower and geothermal development would displace fossil fuel importation and burning in the region and assist in the transformation from a diesel-based economy to a no-emission, renewable-energy-based economy. This omission in the DEIS diminishes the position that removing Roadless Rule provisions for hydropower development and transmission interties between Southeast Alaska communities or from generation to load centers is critical for anyone truly concerned with climate change and the transformation of cleaner, renewable energy sources to displace fossil fuel use. Unfortunately, the Roadless Rule makes any renewable energy development and interties in the Tongass speculative, regulatory uncertain, and economically more expensive thereby lessening the competitive cost advantage of responsible renewable energy development over fossil fuel use for heating and electrical generation in Southeast Alaska. In essence, all alternatives except for Alternative 6 lock our region into a “stuck on diesel” destiny.

Responsible hydropower development requires complex federal, state and local permitting, compliance with the USFS TLMP and a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) EIS. These requirements are strenuous enough to weed out irresponsible hydropower development and good projects should not bear the additional risk that a non-elected Forest Service official will reserve a Roadless Rule approval or not (As Alternative 2-5 suggest). “If the Responsible Official determines that... a road is needed,” thereby leaving it up to the Forest Service’s “Responsible Official” to decide whether a road is needed without any criteria for doing so. This is a needless and burdensome requirement that unnecessarily manufactures risk and uncertainty that consequently disincentivizes and impedes responsible development that would otherwise meet all other regulatory thresholds.

As previously highlighted in earlier remarks, only Alternative 6 protects and grandfathers federal powersite classifications and the Southeast Intertie against the restrictions of the Roadless Rule. The DEIS does not focus forward to the future use and demand for renewable energy (hydropower, geothermal, tidal) or critical rare earth minerals in the Tongass to fuel local sustainable energy requirements and US renewable requirements. The Tongass, therefore, has regional and national renewable energy and climate change implications since rare earth minerals are used in wind turbines, solar voltaic cells/panels, and other electric equipment to include electric vehicles. Importantly, the DEIS socio-economic analysis should have considered the renewable energy transformation occurring in our country now (Juneau, Alaska has one of the highest electric vehicle ownership per capita in the US¹) and

¹ <https://www.bizjournals.com/pacific/news/2018/11/16/honolulu-among-top-10-electric-vehicle-markets-in.html>

the sustainable energy requirement of Southeast Alaska communities in the Tongass 10, 20 or 50 years henceforward.

Juneau, Alaska is a world leader in the adoption of electric-based heat pump technology which is the most efficient form of electric heating known to man. As more heat pumps are installed and used in Southeast, Alaska, the more renewable energy will be required to supply this load. Juneau's airport, schools, swimming pool, library are already on heat pumps. The electric transformation and dynamic environment we are now seeing are prescient of the demand for renewable energy in the future of the Tongass. This demand is not limited to the heating of Tongass communities. Consider that Baltic countries have already converted to "electric" ferries and the State of Washington is beginning to convert its ferry systems to electric. All-electric ferry cuts emission by 95% and costs by 80% compared to fuel-powered counterparts and the results are attracting customers². Without low-cost sources of hydropower and the transmission lines to fuel, this new marine transportation and ferry technologies now being adopted, our Native villages will be unable to economically dock and recharge these ferries.

Failure to overturn the Roadless Rule and make concrete and unequivocal safeguards for hydropower resources and the Southeast Intertie will continue the downward economic cycle for our currently lowest economically endowed communities and will only get worse. However, access to hydropower installations producing lower-cost power and then transmission of this lower-cost power to these communities should be a mission-critical consideration of the Roadless Rule DEIS. Sentencing our poorest diesel energy-based Southeast communities to a stuck-on-diesel-destiny is an unintended economic and environmental consequence of the Roadless Rule. Regardless of the intention, the corresponding contentious impact on Southeast Alaska and our poorest communities can be abated by overturning the Roadless Rule in Alternative 6.

Consider that in the book of Mathew, the "Parable of the Talents" where the unworthy servant buries the talent, neglecting their duty and was rightfully chastised with the mistaken belief they were protecting their Master's resource, but instead were found dishonorable. So too failing to fully utilize a given resource for the good of providing renewable energy to the citizens of Southeast Alaska is a similar dereliction of duty. Instead, for whom much is provided, much is required. Much is provided to our region of Alaska for the Tongass National Forest provides resources to be harvested, mined, and renewable resources developed in harmony with nature through permitting. The requirement is to properly develop resources through established Environmental Impact Assessments and Statements coordinated with the TLMP. The Roadless Rule instead circumvents this time-honored and proven process to unwisely preclude reasonable and responsible renewable energy development for this and future generations of Alaskans and Americans. I ask that you wisely not bury the Talent, but instead allow the Tongass (our Talent) to prosper.

² All-electric ferry cuts emission by 95% and costs by 80% compared to fuel-powered counterparts and the results are attracting customers. <https://www.electrek.co/2018/02/03/all-electric-ferry-cuts-emission-cost/>

I thank you for the ability to make a public comment for Alternative 6 and humbly offer insights that may or may not have been addressed by other commenters.

Sincerely,

Duff Mitchell
3274 Pioneer Ave.
Juneau, AK 99801

Exhibit A. Public Law 106-511 Southeast Intertie
Exhibit B. Community Support Letters and Resolution for the Southeast Intertie

SEC. 507. REPEAL OF SUPERSEDED LAW.

The Act of March 2, 1936 (chapter 113; 16 U.S.C. 423j-423l) is repealed.

**TITLE VI—SOUTHEASTERN ALASKA
INTERTIE SYSTEM CONSTRUCTION;
NAVAJO ELECTRIFICATION DEM-
ONSTRATION PROGRAM**

Deadline.

SEC. 601. SOUTHEASTERN ALASKA INTERTIE AUTHORIZATION LIMIT.

Upon the completion and submission to the United States Congress by the Forest Service of the ongoing High Voltage Direct Current viability analysis pursuant to United States Forest Service Collection Agreement #00CO-111005-105 or no later than February 1, 2001, there is hereby authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Energy such sums as may be necessary to assist in the construction of the Southeastern Alaska Intertie system as generally identified in Report #97-01 of the Southeast Conference. Such sums shall equal 80 percent of the cost of the system and may not exceed \$384,000,000. Nothing in this title shall be construed to limit or waive any otherwise applicable State or Federal law.

Presented by: The Manager
Introduced: 08/18/97
Drafted by: J.R.C.

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA

Serial No. 1882

A Resolution Supporting a Twenty Year Power Grid Plan for Southeast Alaska.

WHEREAS, Southeast Alaska's electrical interties and transportation corridor projects are important to the economy of the region and essential for effective coordination of our electrical resources, and

WHEREAS, traditional industries and the rapidly developing tourism industry will increase demand for energy production, energy distribution systems, and a better transportation system for the region, and

WHEREAS, existing hydroelectric projects are reaching their capacities, and

WHEREAS, the communities of Southeast Alaska will need reliable, cost effective, long-term sources of energy for the future in order to minimize environmental impacts, stabilize electric rates, and foster employment, and

WHEREAS, the only method for transmitting hydroelectric energy to the communities of Southeast Alaska is through a power grid, and

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska has identified potential sites and corridors for the development of hydroelectric power and power grids throughout Southeast Alaska, and

WHEREAS, these potential hydro and transmission lines can be developed from a regional perspective;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA:


Section 1. The City & Borough of Juneau supports a regional effort to develop a 20-year power grid plan for Southeast Alaska. The plan should be responsive to each community's needs and plans and should promote regional economic development

opportunities. The plan should be based on a review of existing studies and literature and an economic feasibility analysis.

Section 2. The City & Borough of Juneau respectfully recommends that the Alaska Legislature and the Congress support the Southeast Alaska Electrical Intertie and Transportation Corridors Projects.

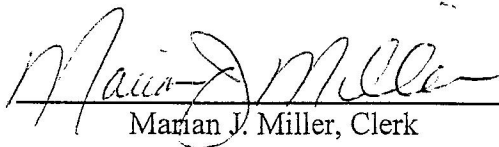
Section 3. Effective Date. This resolution shall be effective immediately upon adoption.

Adopted this 18th day of August, 1997.



Dennis Egan, Mayor

Attest:



Marian J. Miller, Clerk

1882MR:

This resolution expresses Assembly support for development of a Southeast Alaska regional electrical intertie project.

I recommend that this resolution be adopted.

JRC/szl

Assembly Meeting: 08/04/97



tingit & haïda regional electrical authority

P.O. Box 210149 • Auke Bay, Alaska 99821 • (907) 789-3196



June 17, 1997

Honorable Albert Dick, Mayor
City of Hoonah
PO Box 360
Hoonah, Alaska 99829

RECEIVED
JUN 18 1997
CITY OF HOONAH

Dear Albert:


Attached is a statement of understanding in support of a effort to promote construction of an electrical intertie throughout the Southeast Alaska region. I have signed the document on behalf of THREA, and the working group has asked for support from all of the communities in the region which you can indicate by signing the document also. In addition, it would be very helpful if you could pass a resolution in support of the concept, and then fax all of the documents to the City and Borough of Sitka. The originals should also go there. The working group will be meeting again and you have been invited to send a representative to serve on the working group.

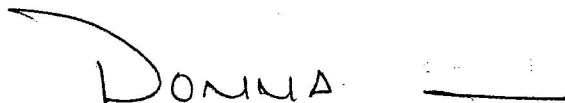
City and Borough of Sitka
Electrical Department
1306 Halibut Point Road
Sitka, Alaska 99835

Phone: 907-747-6633
Fax: 907-747-3208

I have enclosed information from the working group, including a draft resolution that should help you. There is a lot of interest and excitement about this effort. With your support, I am sure we can finally begin to see some real progress. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,


Robert Martin, Jr.
General Manager



EXAMPLES

STATEMENT of UNDERSTANDING SUPPORTING
THE SOUTHEAST ALASKA ELECTRICAL INTERTIE
and
TRANSPORTATION CORRIDORS PROJECT

WE THE UNDERSIGNEES AGREE TO PARTICIPATE IN AND SUPPORT A REGIONAL EFFORT TO PROMOTE A 20-YEAR POWER GRID PLAN FOR THE SOUTHEAST ALASKA REGION THAT IS RESPONSIVE TO EACH COMMUNITY'S NEEDS AND TIME LINES, AND WILL RESULT IN REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES SUCH AS:

- Reduced environmental impacts by cities sharing energy sources
- Improved ferry service to the region
- Stable electric rates and cost equalization
- Extended surface transportation for community development
- Recreational opportunities
- Employment opportunities

Name/Title: *Robert Smith Major* Date: *16 June 97*
Tlingit Haida Regional Electrical Authority
Hoonah Plant

Name/Title: *Albert W. Dick Mayor* Date: *6-23-97*
City of Hoonah

STATEMENT of UNDERSTANDING SUPPORTING
THE SOUTHEAST ALASKA ELECTRICAL INTERTIE
AND
TRANSPORTATION CORRIDORS PROJECT

WE THE UNDERSIGNEES AGREE TO PARTICIPATE IN AND SUPPORT A REGIONAL EFFORT TO PROMOTE A 20-YEAR POWER GRID PLAN FOR THE SOUTHEAST ALASKA REGION THAT IS RESPONSIVE TO EACH COMMUNITY'S NEEDS AND TIME LINES, AND WILL RESULT IN REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES SUCH AS:

- ▶ Reduced Environmental Impacts by cities sharing energy sources
- ▶ Improved Ferry Service to the Region
- ▶ Stable Electric Rates & Cost Equalization
- ▶ Extended Surface Transportation for Community Development
- ▶ Recreational Opportunities
- ▶ Employment Opportunities

Name/Title: William A. Corbus Date: JUNE 15, 1997
WILLIAM A. CORBUS
PRESIDENT
ALASKA ELECTRIC LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY

Name/Title: _____ Date: _____



KETCHIKAN PUBLIC UTILITIES

2930 TONGASS AVENUE

KETCHIKAN, ALASKA 99901

TELEPHONE 907-225-1000
FAX 907-225-1888

June 17, 1997

MUNICIPALLY OWNED
ELECTRIC TELEPHONE WATER

Mr. Randy Cornelius, Superintendent
City of Sitka Electric Department
1306 Halibut Point Road
Sitka, Alaska 99835

Subject: Statement of Understanding supporting the Southeast Alaska Electrical Intertie and
Transportation Corridors Project.

Dear Mr. Cornelius:

The following statement is provided as requested:

Ketchikan Public Utilities agrees to participate in and support a regional effort to promote a 20-year power grid plan for the Southeast Alaska region that is responsive to each community's needs and time lines, and will result in regional economic development opportunities such as:

- *Reduced environmental impacts by cities sharing energy sources.*
- *Improved ferry service to the region.*
- *Stable electric rates & cost equalization.*
- *Extended surface transportation for community development.*
- *Recreational opportunities.*
- *Employment opportunities.*

It is my understanding that this effort recognizes and supports Ketchikan's immediate need for the Swan Lake-Lake Tyee Intertie. We in turn will add our support to this regional planning effort. I anticipate Richard Trimble, our Power Projects Manager, will represent KPU at your future planning sessions.

Also as requested, KPU will be forwarding a resolution of support to our City Council for their consideration.

Sincerely,

John A. Magyar
General Manager

JAM:RDT:slb

cc: Ketchikan City Council
KPU Advisory Board

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Alaska Power & Telephone Company
 191 Otto Street- PO Box 3222
 Port Townsend, Wa 98368-0922
 800-982-0136 ext.120
 fax 360-385-7538
 bobapt@olympus.net

**Alaska Power &
 Telephone Co.**

Fax

To: Randy Cornelius

From: Bob Grimm

Electric Department City and Borough of Sitka

Fax: 907-747-3208

Pages: 2

Phone: 907-747-6633

Date: June 20, 1997

Re: Support for Southeast Electrical Intertie CC:

Urgent For Review Please Comment Please Reply Please Recycle

● **Comments:**

Alaska Power & Telephone agrees to participate in and support, if economically feasible, a regional effort to promote a 20-year-power grid and transportation plan for the southeast Alaska region. We can see the potential for great economic benefit in this type of approach to our customers.

As you are aware, Alaska Power & Telephone has been a participant in two earlier studies of this type dating back to 1981. We also have been actively interconnecting the communities that we serve when it has been in our customer's best interest. We currently are in the process of finalizing an intertie that will allow us to provide renewable and non-polluting hydropower energy from our Black Bear Lake Hydropower Plant to the community of Thorne Bay on Prince of Wales Island. In addition, we have developed an interconnection plan for the Upper Lynn Canal Region. In fact we are scheduled to be laying submarine cable to connect the Cities of Haines and Skagway during 1998. I hope you understand that we not only support the concept but also have been actively constructing a portion of the electrical grid you wish to plan. We feel strongly that the planning effort to be successful will need to have a representative from the state. If you have not already done so I suggest that you contact Percy Frisby, Director DCRA Division of Energy.

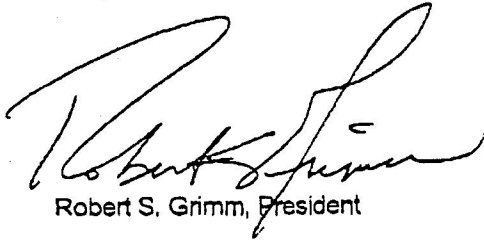
We currently provide energy to the following communities on Prince of Wales Island (i.e. Craig, Klawock, Hollis, Hydaburg, Coffman Cove, Whale Pass), and have developed plans to serve Thorne Bay and Naukat. We have been assisted greatly by Mr. Frisby of the Division of Energy in this regard. We also have developed a regional energy plan for the Upper Lynn Canal Region that includes Skagway, Haines, Klukwan and the Chilkat Valley.

June 20, 1997

We look forward to working with you and supporting this effort. Since we are not directly affiliated with any of the local governments in the areas we serve we are unable to speak for them and encourage you to contact them directly. We will be glad to provide any assistance we can.

Please keep us advised of any meetings so that we may participate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert S. Grimm". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and "S".

Robert S. Grimm, President

Alaska Power & Telephone

Kandy

Sponsor: Administrator

**CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA
RESOLUTION NO. 97-678**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH
OF SITKA, ALASKA SUPPORTING REGIONAL ELECTRICAL
INTERTIE AND TRANSPORTATION CORRIDOR PROJECTS**

WHEREAS, Southeast Alaska's electrical interties and transportation corridors projects are important to the economy of the region which is being hard hit by the loss of its timber industry and are essential to the lifestyle of the people of this region; and

WHEREAS, The traditional industries and the developing tourism industry will increase demand for energy production, energy distribution systems, and transportation systems for the region, and existing hydroelectric projects are reaching their capacities; and

WHEREAS, The communities of Southeast Alaska will need reliable, cost-effective, long-term sources of energy for the future that result in reduced environmental impacts, stable electric rates, and employment; and

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

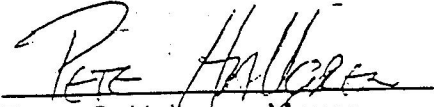
WHEREAS, The State of Alaska has identified potential sites and corridors for the development of hydroelectric power and power grids throughout Southeast Alaska; and

WHEREAS, These potential hydroelectric and transmission lines can be developed from a regional perspective.

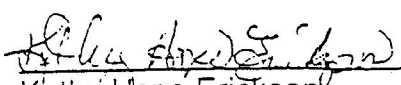
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Assembly of the City and Borough of Sitka, Alaska affirms and supports a regional effort to develop a twenty-year power grid plan for the Southeast Alaska region that is responsive to each community's needs and time lines, and will result in regional economic development opportunities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City and Borough of Sitka strongly recommends that the Alaska State Legislature and the United States Congress affirm and support the Southeast Alaska electrical intertie and transportation corridors projects.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Assembly of the City and Borough of Sitka, Alaska on this 24th day of June, 1997.


Peter S. Hallgren, Mayor

ATTEST:


Kathy Hope Erickson
Municipal Clerk

Marlene, Randy

TONY KNOWLES
GOVERNOR



P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0001
(907) 465-3500
Fax (907) 465-3532

STATE OF ALASKA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
JUNEAU

June 25, 1997


The Honorable Peter Hallgren
Mayor of the City and Borough of Sitka
Mr. Gary I. Paxton, Administrator
100 Lincoln Street
Sitka, AK 99835

Dear Mayor ^{Pete}Hallgren and Mr. ^{Gary}Paxton:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Southeast Electrical Intertie and Transportation Corridors Project. I appreciate the work you and the working group are doing to get this project going. Once again, I am impressed by the level of cooperation among Southeast communities.

Please keep me informed on your progress and let me know if there is anything my office can do to help.

Sincerely,


Tony Knowles
Governor

CITY OF WRANGELL, ALASKA

RESOLUTION NO. 06-97-679

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY
OF WRANGELL, ALASKA, SUPPORTING A
TWENTY YEAR POWER GRID PLAN FOR THE
SOUTHEAST ALASKA REGION

WHEREAS, Southeast Alaska's electrical interties and transportation corridors projects are important to the economy of the region and are essential to the lifestyle of the people of this region; and

WHEREAS, the traditional industries and the developing tourism industry will increase demand for energy production, energy distribution systems, and a better transportation system for the region, and as existing hydroelectric projects and are reaching their capacities; and

WHEREAS, the communities of Southeast Alaska will need reliable, cost effective, long-term sources of energy for the future that result in reduced environmental impacts, stable electric rates and employment; and

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

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska has identified potential sites and corridors for the development of hydroelectric power and power grids throughout Southeast Alaska; and

WHEREAS, these potential hydro and transmission lines can be developed from a regional perspective;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF WRANGELL, ALASKA:

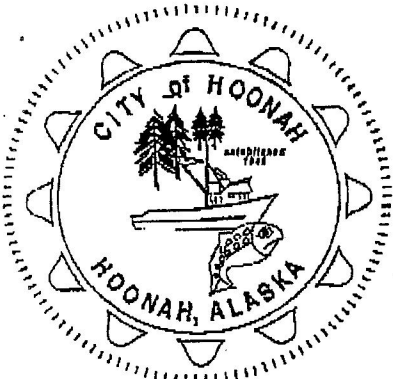
1. That the City of Wrangell affirms and supports a regional effort to develop a 20 year power grid plan for the Southeast Alaska region that is responsive to each community's needs and timelines, and will result in regional economic development opportunities.

2. That the City of Wrangell strongly recommends that the Alaska State Legislature and that the United States Congress affirms and supports the Southeast Alaska Electrical Intertie and Transportation Corridors Projects.

ADOPTED: _____ June 24 _____, 1997

Douglas W. Roberts
Douglas W. Roberts, Mayor

ATTEST: Christie L. Jamieson
Christie L. Jamieson, City Clerk



CITY OF HOONAH

P.O. Box 380 • Hoonah, Alaska 99829 • (907) 945-3663 • FAX (907) 945-3445

RESOLUTION NO. 97-07-13

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF HOONAH, ALASKA SUPPORTING REGIONAL ELECTRICAL INTERTIE AND TRANSPORTATION CORRIDOR PROJECTS.

WHEREAS, Southeast Alaska's electrical interties and transportation corridors projects are important to the economy of the region and are essential to the lifestyle of the people of this region; and

WHEREAS, the traditional industries and the developing tourism industry will increase demand for energy production, energy distribution system, and transportation system for the region, and that existing hydroelectric projects are reaching their capacities; and for the region, and the existing hydroelectric projects are reaching their capacities; and

WHEREAS, the communities of Southeast Alaska will need reliable, cost-effective, long-term sources of energy for the future and result in reduced environmental impacts, stable electric rates, and employment; and

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

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska has identified potential sites and corridors for the development of hydroelectric power and power grids throughout Southeast Alaska; and

WHEREAS, these potential hydroelectric and transmission lines can be developed from a regional perspective.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Hoonah, Alaska affirms and supports a regional effort to develop a twenty-year power grid plan for the Southeast Alaska region that is responsive to each community's needs and time lines, and will result in regional economic development opportunities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Hoonah strongly recommends that the Alaska State Legislature and the United States Congress affirm and support the Southeast Alaska electrical intertie and transportation corridors projects.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 8th DAY OF July, 1997.

Albert W. Dick
Albert W. Dick, Mayor

ATTEST:

Deborah L. Beasley
Deborah L. Beasley, City Clerk



Resolution No. 1490-R

A Resolution Supporting Regional Electrical Intertie and Transportation Corridor Projects.

Whereas, Southeast Alaska's electrical intertie and transportation corridor projects are important to the economy of the region and are essential to the lifestyle of the people of this region; and

Whereas, the traditional industries and the developing tourism industry will increase demand for energy production, energy distribution systems, and transportation systems for the region, and that existing hydroelectric projects are reaching their capacities; and

Whereas, the communities of Southeast Alaska will need reliable, cost-effective, long-term sources of energy for the future that result in reduced environmental impacts, stable electric rates, and employment; and

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Whereas, the State of Alaska has identified potential sites and corridors for the development of hydroelectric power and power grids throughout Southeast Alaska; and

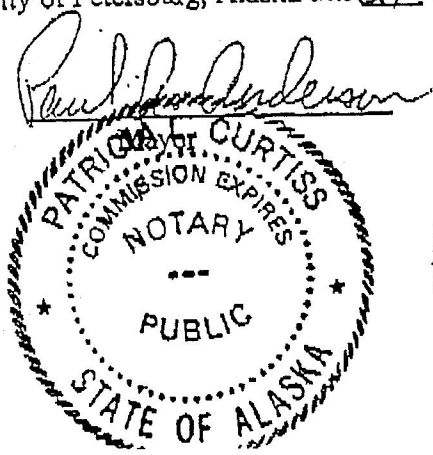
Whereas, these potential hydroelectric and transmission lines can be developed from a regional perspective.

Now Therefore Be It Resolved that the City Council of the City of Petersburg, Alaska affirms and supports a regional effort to develop a twenty-year power grid plan for the Southeast Alaska region that is responsive to each community's needs and timelines, and will result in regional economic development opportunities; and

Be It Further Resolved that the City Council of the City of Petersburg strongly recommends that the Alaska State Legislature and the United States Congress affirm and support the Southeast Alaska electrical intertie and transportation corridor projects.

Passed and Approved by the City Council of the City of Petersburg, Alaska this 21 day of July, 1997.

Attest
[Signature]
City Clerk



Presented by: The Manager
Introduced: 04/14/2003
Drafted by: J.R. Corso

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA

Serial No. 2203

A Resolution Supporting the Southeast Alaska Intertie Project.

WHEREAS, Southeast Alaska is the only region in the United States with a population its size that is not interconnected by an electrical intertie system, and

WHEREAS, the lack of interconnection increases power costs to more than four times the national average in some communities, and

WHEREAS, the communities of Southeast Alaska need reliable, cost effective, long-term sources of energy that will minimize environmental impacts, stabilize electric rates, foster employment, and increase economic opportunities, and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Congressional Delegation has been successful in securing passage of legislation authorizing the Southeast Alaska Intertie Project with Federal appropriations of up to \$384 million dollars for the project, and

WHEREAS, Southeast Conference has hired a coordinator to work full time on intertie issues, and

WHEREAS, Southeast Conference unanimously approved the Juneau-Hoonah and Kake-Petersburg intertie legs as priority projects and commissioned a comprehensive engineering and economic analysis of the Southeast Alaska Intertie Project, and

WHEREAS, it is vital that progress continues on the regional goal of interconnecting all of Southeast Alaska with a transmission line system.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA:

Section 1. The Assembly supports the efforts of Southeast Conference to identify funding and to press forward with planning and construction of the Southeast Alaska Intertie Project in order to provide reliable and affordable power for Southeast residents, and reduce their dependence on expensive diesel generators.

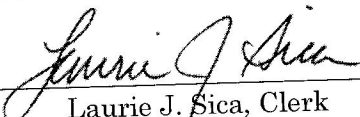
Section 2. Effective Date. This resolution shall be effective immediately upon adoption.

Adopted this 14th day of April, 2003.



Sally Smith, Mayor

Attest:



Laurie J. Sica, Clerk

Vote: Unanimous

JUNEAU EMPIRE.COM

Young endorses energy projects

US Congressman suggests Permanent Fund invest in power

Friday, April 10, 2009

By Pat Forgey | **JUNEAU EMPIRE**

Rep. Don Young has given a strong endorsement to one of Southeast Alaska's top priorities for economic development, an energy grid connecting new hydroelectric power plants throughout the region.

"There ought to be a grid put together," Young said. "You can't develop even a cottage industry unless you have cheap power."

Young, who has represented Alaska in the U.S. House of Representatives since 1973, said energy was the state's number one problem, but not enough was being done about it.

"What the governor and the Legislature should do, instead of just talking," is develop rural Alaska's energy resources, he said. "We've talked about it long enough."

Young spoke this week to the Native Issues Forum at the Alaska Native Brotherhood Hall in Juneau, and with one of Juneau's Rotary clubs.

While some Southeast communities have relatively inexpensive hydroelectric power, inadequate transmission lines mean many rural communities remain on diesel power. And inability to get power to consumers means some likely hydro sites can't be developed economically. It's unlikely the communities would be able to use all the power produced, or be able to sell excess energy.

Young suggested the Alaska Permanent Fund invest in power projects, instead of investments elsewhere.

"Instead of investing our money in real estate in Virginia, bring that money back here and invest it in power," he said.

The real estate he was referring to is the Permanent Fund's huge Tyson's Corner Mall in Northern Virginia.

The often confrontational Congressman sounded conciliatory in Juneau. His message: Everyone needs to work to bring more power to Alaska.

"Let's all work together, let's hold hands, let's achieve the goal of producing energy for everyone in Alaska," he said.

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