

CLERK'S OFFICE
APPROVED

Submitted by: ASSEMBLY MEMBER SELKREGG
Vice Chair Coffey
Reviewed by: Assembly Counsel
For reading: March 24, 2009

Date: _____ ANCHORAGE, ALASKA
AR NO. 2009-76

**A RESOLUTION OF THE ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY TO SUPPORT
COLLABORATION WITH THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH AND KENAI
PENINSULA BOROUGH, AND THE STATE OF ALASKA, IN THE DEVELOPMENT AND
IMPLEMENTATION OF A SUSTAINABLE SOUTHCENTRAL/COOK INLET REGIONAL
ENERGY PLAN.**

WHEREAS, in January 2009 the Anchorage Assembly adopted the 2008 Tri-Borough Commission Report, which included a joint call from Municipality of Anchorage, Matanuska-Susitna Borough, and the Kenai Peninsula Borough for a Statewide Energy policy; and

WHEREAS, the December 2008 Alaska Energy Authority's *Alaska Energy Plan* update encourages fostering local solutions, involving local leaders, and community-based decision making, so that communities work together to create sustainable business models that respect local values and needs; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Energy Authority has proposed the consolidation of six Railbelt utilities as the "Railbelt Energy Grid Authority" (REGA) which is intended to maximize economies of scale in energy generation and transmission facilities for the benefit of Railbelt electric consumers from Homer to Fairbanks over the next 50 years; and

WHEREAS, natural gas is the essential fuel used to heat homes and businesses throughout Southcentral Alaska, which holds half the population of the State; and

WHEREAS, testimony in regulatory processes for gas supply contract approval suggests that the gas delivery system has come close to failure on several occasions in the last 2 years; and

WHEREAS, the Southcentral region enjoys an abundant and diverse menu of renewable energy sources, including wind, geothermal, hydro (large and small), and tidal; and

WHEREAS, a regional strategy that integrates the transmission and distribution of renewable energy into the existing energy grid is necessary in order to utilize the diverse menu of renewable and non-renewable energy resources; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska is an important leader in addressing regional energy solutions and local and regional insights, priorities and policies can strengthen the State's efforts; and

WHEREAS, the Municipality of Anchorage, along with the other Southcentral communities working in partnership with the State of Alaska, is best positioned to evaluate and determine the optimum solutions and strategies needed to address the region's energy policies over the next 50 years;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Anchorage Assembly resolves:

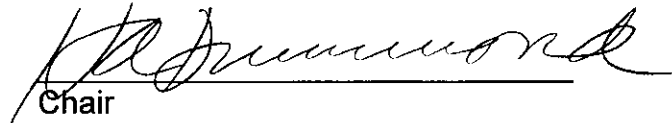
Section 1. The Anchorage Municipal Assembly will work with the Kenai Peninsula Borough and the Matanuska-Susitna Borough to develop a regionally led Southcentral energy strategy to meet the short-term and long-term energy needs of the region.

Section 2. This effort shall define local and regional priorities and provide guidance during the REGA planning process.

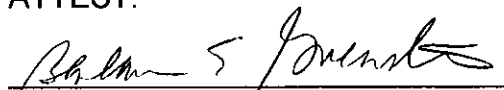
Section 3. The energy strategy, priorities, and guidance will address and consider the following:

1. A secure and affordable natural gas supply to Southcentral Alaska.
2. Joint operation and contractual agreements, along with investment strategies, to aggregate the region's economies of scale toward meeting regional energy needs.
3. Strategies and policies that promote and secure more affordable energy generation, transmission and distribution, to include renewable and non-renewable resources.
4. Identification of and investment in innovative solutions that improve energy generation, transmission, distribution, storage and conservation.
5. Development of energy conservation strategies, protocols, and incentives for both the public and the Railbelt utility providers.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Assembly this 24th day of March, 2009.


Chair

ATTEST:


Municipal Clerk