

Thank you Mr. Chairman, my name is Vince Beltrami, president of the Alaska AFL-CIO and a proud member of IBEW Local 1547.

Our state is a state of vast untouched nature. Roads connect only a small number of communities, and most villages are accessible only by boat or plane. It is not uncommon for rural residents to pay \$1 per KW hour and \$10 a gallon for heating fuel and gasoline.

Last year the Alaska legislature approved the creation of a Renewable Energy grant fund totaling \$300 million, and I'm fortunate enough to chair the advisory committee for this fund and to date we have awarded 77 renewable energy projects totaling \$125 million.

We have more renewable energy potential than any other state in the union from wind to hydro to massive geothermal potential.

And as we look for cleaner energy supplies I want to point out and make this body aware of a huge clean energy project we've been working on in Alaska.

Its called the Alaska Natural Gas Pipeline. We have trillions and trillions of cubic feet of known natural gas reserves.

It would be the largest privately financed construction project in the history of North America. The Alaska Natural Gas Pipeline Act was passed by Congress in 2004. Sense of Senate language encourages that the steel be manufactured in the U.S. And that the project be constructed under the terms of a Project Labor Agreement. Similar requirements exist in Alaska law.

The plan is that the pipeline would parallel the existing oil pipeline, with virtually no environmental impact. Then it would turn east and south through Canada, to Alberta and then ultimately tie into Chicago to be distributed throughout the American maraket.

It would create tens of thousands of direct jobs and estimates exceeding 100,000 indirect jobs. From the engineering and manufacturing of pipe and other parts to the transportation, loading, shipping, and construction of the project and operations thereafter. It would create jobs all over the country!

During President Obama's campaign and now as President he has supported and recognized the enormous significance of this project to America's economy and energy security. President Obama meets with Canadian Prime Minister Harper next week and I'm sure this will be part of their discussion. And our recently elected U.S. Senator, Democrat Mark Begich sent a letter to the President yesterday encouraging the President to continue to push for this project.

So, as we adopt this resolution, I seek only to make this body aware of and hope to build support for the largest project in the country that moves us to a cleaner greener economy and puts thousands of our members to work.

I urge adoption of Resolution 10. Thank you Mr. Chairman.