

Alaska State Legislature

Representative Edgmon
Alaska House of Representatives
House District 37
907-465-4451



Alaska State Capitol,
Room 208
Juneau, AK
99801

HOUSE BILL 99 **Sponsor Statement**

House Bill 99 is necessary to allow a local utility to conduct evaluation work on a promising hydroelectric site at Nuyakuk Falls in the Wood-Tikchik State Park. While HB 99 allows a hydroelectric project to be considered a compatible use under the park management plan, it does not represent official endorsement or approval of any particular project at the Nuyakuk Falls site on behalf of the Legislature or any State or Federal agencies.

The Nuyakuk Hydroelectric project would service the power needs of several communities in Southwest Alaska which presently depend on diesel generators for electricity. Current electricity rates are a significant burden on residents and local businesses and a major disincentive to growth and private sector investment in a region that features many large seafood processors.

The Wood-Tikchik State Park enabling statutes instruct the management council to manage entirely for fish and wildlife habitat with exceptions for specific additional compatible uses. These additional compatible uses are presently limited to traditional subsistence, recreation, and two particular hydroelectric sites, Grant Lake and Lake Elva. House Bill 99 would add Nuyakuk River Falls as a third hydroelectric site not deemed an incompatible use.