



## Clean Energy: A Good Deal for Alaska

- Alaska has vast resources available to produce clean energy here at home. By unleashing this potential, we will create new jobs, reduce pollution and make our country more secure.
- With comprehensive energy and climate legislation, we could create as many as 9,000 jobs in Alaska.
- Comprehensive legislation could save Alaska households up to \$5,801 per year, by reducing our dependence on fossil fuels and providing incentives for energy efficiency.<sup>1</sup>

## Alaska's Clean Energy Potential

- Improving energy efficiency in homes and businesses can save money and create jobs. Alaska's weatherization program improved 1,740 homes in 2009, and that number is expected to more than quadruple by 2011.<sup>2</sup>
- Alaska's many rivers offer some of the best hydropower potential in the nation. Hydropower already accounts for nearly 20% of Alaska's electric generating capacity.<sup>3</sup>
- Alaska has enormous geothermal resources that could be used for heating applications. Geothermal energy has the potential to provide about 25% of the state's electricity.<sup>4</sup>
- Chena Hot Springs Resort, 60 miles north of Fairbanks, obtains some of its electricity from a nearby geothermal power plant. More geothermal power units are expected to be installed at the resort, eventually providing power and heat for the entire facility, which serves close to 70,000 visitors each year. Chena Hot Springs is the lowest temperature geothermal resource to be used for commercial power production in the world.<sup>5</sup>

## The Consequences of Inaction: Why Alaska Can't Wait

- Alaska is also experiencing threats to its coastline as it has more coastline than the other 49 states combined. The rate of erosion along the state's northeastern coast has doubled over the past 50 years.<sup>6</sup>
- Warming temperatures are increasing the likelihood of insect outbreaks and wildfires in Alaska's forests. If no actions are taken to reduce global warming pollution, the average area burned per year in Alaska is projected to double by the middle of this century.<sup>7</sup>
- It is vital to our national security that we make the transition to clean sources of energy. Our military could face increasing challenges as the effects of climate change threaten political and social stability around the world. Meanwhile, our dependence on foreign oil makes America less secure.

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<sup>1</sup> David Roland-Holst and Friedrich Kahl, "Clean Energy and Climate Policy for U.S. Growth and Job Creation: An Economic Assessment of the American Clean Energy and Security Act and the Clean Energy Jobs and American Power Act, Executive Summary," October 25, 2009.

<sup>2</sup> Margaret Bauman, "Weatherization Program Boosts Economy," *Anchorage Daily News*, November 14, 2009.

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Energy Information Administration, "Alaska Renewable Electricity Profile," last updated June 2009.

<sup>4</sup> U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, "GeoPowering the West, Alaska State Profile," last updated January 2007.

<sup>5</sup> Geothermal Energy Association, "Alaska – Developing Power Plant – Chena.," last accessed January 28, 2010; Chena Hot Spring Resort, "Geothermal Power," last updated 2009.

<sup>6</sup> Natural Resources Defense Council, *The Cost of Climate Change* (May 2008).

<sup>7</sup> National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, *Global Climate Change Impacts in the United States* (June 2009).