DON YOUNG CONGRESSMAN FOR ALL ALASKA

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Congress of the United States House of Representatives Washington, D.C. 20515

December 4, 2017

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

CHAIRMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON INDIAN, INSULAR, AND ALASKA NATIVE AFFAIRS

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

REPUBLICAN POLICY COMMITTEE

17 00 C 5 PM 1: 1:

Regulatory Commission of Alaska 701 W 8th Ave Suite 300 Anchorage, AK 99501

RE: Comments on U-17-097 Hydro One Limited Acquisition of Controlling Interest in Alaska Electric Light & Power and ownership rights and control of the Snettisham Hydroelectric Facilities.

RCA Commissioners:

I recently learned that a one-dollar purchase option to acquire the State of Alaska owned Snettisham energy infrastructure is being transferred as part of the proposed Avista/AERC/AEL&P sale to Hydro One. Approval of the sale constitutes a serious breach of public interest and congressional intent. Hydro One is a foreign company whose largest and controlling shareholder (49.9%) is the Provincial Government of Ontario, Canada. As it now stands, Hydro One is requesting your approval to purchase the rights to acquisition a hydropower asset that was intended by Congress to benefit Alaskan utility rate payers as part of their sale agreement.

The Snettisham assets were transferred to the State of Alaska at below construction and replacement value to help insure low electric utility rates in Juneau. I can insure you that it was never Congress' intent that this asset be transferred for the potential profiteering by Canadian government interests. Once the Snettisham bonds are paid off, as the sale is currently constructed, Hydro One could acquire this asset for one dollar. At this point, a foreign governmental entity could "hijack" this public asset initially built to produce low cost power and pledge, monetize or refinance this asset cashing in the equity at the US taxpayer and Alaskan ratepayer expense without recourse. A Hydro One sale, without divestiture of this asset option, could pre-empt Juneau from reaping the benefits of Congress' intended purpose.

I urge the Commission to consider using its authority to protect the public's interest and require the divestiture of the Snettisham asset option as a condition of the sale's approval. Requiring conditions that the Snettisham Hydroelectric Facility assets remain in State of Alaska and or local ownership as Congress intended will provide this protection. In closing and for sake of clarity, I have no objection or comment on this sale other than to insure that the Snettisham Hydroelectric Facilities remain in public hands. I trust in your role and responsibility to fairly protect Alaska consumers that you will share my concerns and insure the public's interest is maintained. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely

DON YOUNG

Congressman for all Alaska