



NEWS RELEASE

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Speaker Harris recognized by electric utility industry for his efforts to promote renewable energy in Alaska

Representative John Harris (R-Valdez), Speaker of the Alaska House of Representatives, received the David P. Hutchens Public Service Award from Alaska Power Association (APA) in recognition of his leadership on behalf of Alaska's electric consumers and their utilities. The trade association announced the award at its 57th annual membership meeting in Barrow, Alaska on August 14.

The David P. Hutchens Public Service Award is presented to individuals outside the utility industry who have provided exceptional public service in the interests of electric consumers in Alaska.

The award was announced by Brad Reeve, APA Board President, at the association's awards banquet. Reeve said, "Tonight, we honor a policymaker who has worked hard to ensure that Alaskans will have access to affordable, reliable electric power from a variety of resources. He has consistently been accessible to our industry and he has taken our recommendations into consideration when developing legislation to benefit electric consumers."

"A Teamster who has called Valdez his home since 1957, Speaker John Harris has proven himself to be an advocate for electric consumers in the Copper Valley Electric Association service area and throughout the state," Reeve said. "His commitment to affordable energy includes co-sponsoring House Bill 152 that established a renewable energy grant recommendation program and a renewable energy fund."

The award is named after Alaska Power Association's first executive director, David P. Hutchens, who worked with utility leaders and public officials for 18 years to improve the affordability and reliability of electric service for consumers in Alaska.

Alaska Power Association, formerly known as the Alaska Rural Electric Cooperative Association, is the 57-year old statewide trade association for urban and rural electric utilities. It provides advocacy and program services to member utilities.

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