

STATE OF ALASKA THE LEGISLATURE

2003

Source

SCS CSHCR 2(CRA)

**Legislative
Resolve No.**

12



Relating to the extension of the Alaska Railroad to Delta Junction and Fort Greely to support expanding resource development, agricultural, and military activities.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

WHEREAS the United States Department of Defense has begun to construct an anti-ballistic missile testing and launch facility at Fort Greely, Alaska; and

WHEREAS United States Army Alaska is developing new range areas at Fort Greely to support the training of the new Stryker Brigade; and

WHEREAS the world-class mining operation at Pogo located near Delta Junction is projected to commence construction in the fall of 2003 and operate for at least 11 years, and a more cost-efficient transportation system would assist such a mining venture; and

WHEREAS the agricultural industry in the Delta Junction area would become more cost efficient, competitive, and able to expand if access to markets were less expensive; and

WHEREAS a railroad is well suited to provide the transportation support required to sustain military operations as well as provide a cost-efficient method of transporting goods and services for both mining and agricultural activities in the region; and

WHEREAS the Alaska Railroad already has rail lines extending to Eielson Air Force

Base, which is within 70 miles of Delta Junction and Fort Greely; and

WHEREAS the Alaska Railroad can efficiently provide transportation services for heavy cargo and large quantities of supplies to the region from the ports of Seward, Whittier, and Anchorage while economically delivering the region's mining and agricultural products to market; and

WHEREAS the extension of the Alaska Railroad to Delta Junction and Fort Greely is consistent with the long-term goals of the Alaska Railroad Corporation and the State of Alaska to extend rail service through Canada to the lower 48 states;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests Governor Frank Murkowski to encourage the Alaska Railroad Corporation to undertake the extension of the Alaska Railroad to Delta Junction and Fort Greely in order to support the region's expanding resource development, agricultural, and military activities.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United States; the Honorable Donald Rumsfeld, United States Secretary of Defense; Patrick Gamble, President and Chief Executive Officer, Alaska Railroad Corporation; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.