

**SENATE CS FOR CS FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 56(CRA)**

**IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA**

**TWENTIETH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION**

**BY THE SENATE COMMUNITY AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**Offered: 5/8/98**

**Referred: Rules**

**Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES HUDSON, Williams, Kookesh, Dyson, Kemplen, James, Croft**

**SENATORS Duncan, Taylor, Leman, Wilken**

**A RESOLUTION**

**1 Relating to yttrium mining and transfer of the linear induction motor research  
2 vehicle to Alaska.**

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

**4 WHEREAS** yttrium bearing and other rare earth minerals have been identified in large  
**5** quantities on Prince of Wales Island; and

**6 WHEREAS** the Prince of Wales deposits are the only known deposits of yttrium  
**7** bearing minerals in North America; and

**8 WHEREAS,** based on the present world market, one pound of 99.9999 pure yttrium  
**9** has a market value of \$320,000; and

**10 WHEREAS** the presence of yttrium in the state offers a potential economic  
**11** development opportunity on Prince of Wales Island and elsewhere in Alaska in the areas of  
**12** mining, refining, research, and manufacturing; and

**13 WHEREAS** the local availability of refined yttrium metal could promote the  
**14** establishment of a major research and manufacturing facility for yttrium-based products on  
**15** Prince of Wales Island or elsewhere in Alaska, resulting in new career opportunities for  
**16** Alaskans; and

1       **WHEREAS** products manufactured using yttrium and technology involving yttrium  
2 include powerful frictionless motors and magnetic levitation equipment for use in  
3 transportation systems, superconducting fault limiters, electromagnetic mass launchers, and  
4 yttrium coated tapes and wire; yttrium wire can also be used in medical equipment, including  
5 field magnets in MRI-scanning machines; and

6       **WHEREAS** the firm of Power Superconductor Applications Corporation, based in  
7 Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, has expressed an interest in working with the state to establish  
8 manufacturing and research facilities in Alaska using the local workforce and local facilities;  
9 and

10       **WHEREAS** Power Superconductor Applications Corporation has requested assistance  
11 from the state in securing use of a 30-ton linear induction motor research vehicle (LIMRV)  
12 currently in storage by the Federal Railroad Administration; and

13       **WHEREAS** the LIMRV is expected to become part of a four-year based retrofit and  
14 research project involving yttrium, yttrium products, and yttrium technology; and

15       **WHEREAS** the retrofit and research project is expected to start in 1998 and could lead  
16 to the establishment of a new \$3,100,000 yttrium and yttrium products manufacturing facility  
17 on Prince of Wales Island or elsewhere in Alaska, employing 55 Alaskans; once transfer of  
18 the LIMRV to the State of Alaska takes place, 15 new jobs for Alaskans are expected to be  
19 established immediately; and

20       **WHEREAS** requests for funding to establish new yttrium industrial and research  
21 sectors on Prince of Wales Island or elsewhere in Alaska are not currently being made by the  
22 state; and

23       **WHEREAS** current economic opportunities on Prince of Wales Island and throughout  
24 Alaska have significantly decreased due to recent declines in the timber and fishing industries;

25       **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature would welcome a transfer of the  
26 linear induction motor research vehicle (LIMRV) to the state as a federal contribution to  
27 establishment of a new industrial and research sector located in Alaska; and be it

28       **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the Federal Railroad  
29 Administration, the Alaska Congressional delegation, and the Governor to facilitate transfer  
30 of the LIMRV to Alaska for a period of at least four years.

31       **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to Ms. Jolene M. Molitoris, Administrator,

- 1** Federal Railroad Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation; and to the Honorable Ted
- 2** Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young,
- 3** U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.