

ALASKA RAILROAD

March 9, 2026

Rep. Ashley Carrick, Co-Chair
Rep. Ted Eischeid, Co-Chair
House Transportation Committee

Members of the Transportation Committee:

The Alaska Railroad Corporation (ARRC) supports House Joint Resolution 42, calling on the Alaska State Legislature to urge funding of further analysis and evaluation of the Northern Continental Corridor by the United States Department of Defense.

ARRC has long supported extending Alaska's rail network to connect to the larger North American system, working with federal and state partners to secure funding for Phase 1 of the four-phase, 80-mile Northern Rail Extension to Fort Greely in Delta Junction – a critical in-state component of the larger Northern Continental Corridor concept to connect Alaska to Alberta, Canada. A project of this scale requires the engagement and support of the U.S. government; importantly, the benefits of the completed corridor would accrue not just to Alaska, but to the nation's economic health and critical military readiness.

Whether freight or passenger, rail is the safest and most environmentally sustainable transportation option – and frequently the most cost-efficient. It's part of why safe and reliable rail service in Alaska remains so important to the state today. A North American rail connection would streamline transcontinental freight logistics and harden supply chain resiliency, bolstering economic efficiencies and securing overland transport for heavy cargo vital to national defense.

In light of these clear benefits, ARRC supports the advancement of the Northern Continental Corridor concept through critical funding provided by the Department of Defense, and encourages committee members to vote in support of HJR 42.

Sincerely,



Bill O'Leary
President and CEO
Alaska Railroad Corporation