

program which would afford some measure of relief to local communities which have suffered losses as a result of the presence of federal tax immune properties, within their jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, at the same time the bill does not do violence to the principle of federal tax immunity, establishing as it does a non-partisan board to administer a temporary five-year program of payments in lieu of taxes and special assessments on a limited category of real property which has been removed from the local tax rolls as a result of federal acquisition; and

WHEREAS, the bill does not introduce any sort of a federal give-away program, but rather allows only for payment in carefully weighed cases of legitimate local government hardship arising from federal tax-free properties; and

WHEREAS, representative and responsible local government groups throughout the United States, including the Council of State Governments, the American Municipal Association and the National Association of County Officials have publicly supported this legislation; and

WHEREAS, the passage of such legislation would be of direct benefit to local jurisdictions in Alaska where federal holdings are numerous;

NOW THEREFORE, Your Memorialist urges that Senate Bill 910 of the 86th Congress, First Session, be passed by both houses of Congress in the near future.

Passed by the Senate March 26, 1959.

Passed by the House April 4, 1959.

SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 20

To the Honorable Neil H. McElroy, Secretary of Defense; the Honorable Fred A. Seaton, Secretary of the Interior; the Honorable Royce A. Hardy, Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Mineral Resources; the Honorable C. O. Mittendorf, Administrator, Defense Minerals Exploration Administration; the Honorable E. L. Bartlett and the Honorable Ernest Gruening, Senators from Alaska; the Honorable Ralph J. Rivers, Representative from Alaska:

Your Memorialist, the Legislature of the State of Alaska in First Legislature, First Session assembled respectfully submits that:

WHEREAS, fluorspar is a vital ingredient in rocket and missile production, providing the most perfect oxidizing agent for such equipment; and

WHEREAS, the civilian economy also requires large amounts of fluorspar for the production of steel, aluminum, hydrofluoric acid, atomic energy and flourine gas, bringing the rate of consumption of this mineral to a new high throughout the nation; and

WHEREAS, in the midst of this de-

mand market almost all fluorspar mines in the United States have been forced to close because of excessive foreign imports of this mineral; and

WHEREAS, such closure is dangerous to both the defense and economy of the nation; and

WHEREAS, legislation is now pending in Congress to keep open the United States fluorspar mines by providing a formula dividing the American market between American producers and foreign producers so as to assure continued domestic production; and

WHEREAS, the western area of the United States is rich in fluorspar, particularly the Seward Peninsula area of the State of Alaska;

NOW THEREFORE, Your Memorialist urges that all possible steps be taken to enact the necessary legislation to keep open American fluorspar mines, assuring a domestic supply and that investigation of the fluorspar potential of Alaska be undertaken.

Passed by the Senate March 23, 1959.

Passed by the House August 4, 1959.