



# Alaska State Legislature

1969

Source:

HJR 54 am

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## JOINT RESOLUTION

Requesting federal recognition of the Alaska Marine Highway System as part of the Federal-Aid System and federal funds for marine highway ferry construction.

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

WHEREAS the State of Alaska has established, at its own instigation and expense, a modern marine highway system connecting Alaska and the 48 contiguous states through the Port of Seattle; and

WHEREAS the Alaska Marine Highway System was devised and is operated to take the place of an intrastate and interstate highway system; and

WHEREAS Alaska is in a unique position because the only present land connection with the state is a 1,200-mile gravel road through a foreign country; and

WHEREAS, because of the geographical situation of Southeastern Alaska, there is no possibility of an overland road between it and the South 48 states; and

WHEREAS there is a tremendous growth in commerce, trade and tourism between the South 48 states and Alaska; and

WHEREAS the ferries handle most of this movement in Southeast and between Southeast and Southcentral Alaska; and

WHEREAS Federal-Aid System funds have not been made available for the Alaska Marine Highway System even though it functions as a highway in the truest sense and it is operated to a great extent in interstate commerce; and

WHEREAS there is precedent for providing federal funds to Alaska for the ferry system since there are other states which receive Federal-Aid System funds for the operations of their ferry systems;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the State of Alaska requests that the Alaska Marine Highway System be recognized as a part of the Federal-Aid System and eligible for Federal-Aid System funds;

COPIES of this Resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Richard M. Nixon, President of the United States; the Honorable John Volpe, Secretary of Transportation; the Honorable Walter J. Hickel, Secretary of the Interior; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Mike Gravel, U. S. Senators, and to the Honorable Howard W. Pollock, U. S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.