

STATE OF ALASKA
THE LEGISLATURE

1994

Source
HJR 28

Legislative
Resolve No.
19



Supporting increased access near Mt. McKinley through establishment of a visitor activity area at Kantishna.

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

WHEREAS the Alaska tourism industry recognizes Denali National Park as Alaska's premier visitor attraction because of the majestic view of Mt. McKinley, the opportunity to enjoy a wilderness experience, the chance to encounter wildlife in its natural habitat, and the relative solitude of the area; and

WHEREAS enhancing the Mt. McKinley experience for visitors would enhance the tourist industry statewide through tourist satisfaction and expanded seasons; and

WHEREAS insufficient access to premier viewing areas and lack of facilities at these areas are major obstacles to enhancing the wilderness experience; and

WHEREAS the state is uniquely able to obtain rights-of-way into Kantishna through leases, land exchanges, assertion of rights under RS 2477, application for transportation utility corridors under Title XI of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA), and other legal claims to rights-of-way, and can monitor negotiations that would allow private sector development to occur; and

WHEREAS the Kantishna area, with its dry interior climate and long daylight hours, offers splendid viewing opportunities and a high potential to promote both summer and winter activities; and

WHEREAS access to Kantishna would provide the Alaska private sector with the opportunity to meet the increased demand for tourism facilities while taking advantage of a historical transportation route and restricting potentially deleterious environmental effects to areas historically used by the mining industry; and

WHEREAS it is necessary to design and construct these facilities and transportation systems so that they have the least possible negative effect on the environment, the area's wildlife, and the state's fiscal resources;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully urges the Governor and the executive branch to be aggressive in their resolve to enhance the Mt. McKinley experience for our visitors by developing new environmentally sound access routes into Kantishna and a Kantishna visitor activity area; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that appropriate state agencies should work with the National Park Service and interested members of the public and private sectors to thoroughly investigate the potential of establishing a rail utility corridor into Kantishna in which the private sector could construct and operate a transportation system and other facilities that would serve the public needs; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature strongly supports the efforts of the Governor of Alaska, the Alaska delegation to the U.S. Congress, and the President of the United States in pursuit of the necessary studies, land acquisition processes, and other necessary permits that would allow new environmentally sound routes into Kantishna and a Kantishna visitor activity area.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Bill Clinton, President of the United States; the Honorable Al Gore, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Robert C. Byrd, president Pro Tempore of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Thomas S. Foley, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; Roger Kennedy, Director of the National Park Service; Jack Morhead, Regional Director for Alaska, National Park Service; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank

Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.