

**HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 28**  
**IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA**  
**NINETEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION**

**BY REPRESENTATIVE DAVIES BY REQUEST**

**Introduced: 2/12/96**

**Referred: House Special Committee on World Trade and State/Federal Relations, Transportation, State Affairs**

**A RESOLUTION**

**1 Relating to extension of the James Dalton Highway to the Arctic Ocean.**

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

**3 WHEREAS** the Alaska State Legislature reaffirms and declares that there is an  
**4 immediate need for a public highway from the Yukon River Bridge to the Arctic Ocean; and**

**5 WHEREAS** this highway will provide the first year-round, overland route to the Arctic  
**6 Ocean and will result in the completion of a highway from the Pacific Ocean to the Arctic**  
**7 Ocean; and**

**8 WHEREAS** the highway between the Yukon River Bridge and the Arctic Ocean is  
**9 named the James Dalton Highway, popularly known as the Dalton Highway; and**

**10 WHEREAS** the Dalton Highway provides North America's only highway link to the  
**11 Arctic Ocean; and**

**12 WHEREAS** the Dalton Highway is the second northernmost highway in the world;  
**13 and**

**14 WHEREAS** the Dalton Highway was opened for public access to Deadhorse in 1994;  
**15 and**

**16 WHEREAS** the federal Department of Transportation added the Dalton Highway to  
**17 the national highway system in 1995; and**

1           **WHEREAS**, during the last year, the average daily traffic at the Yukon River Bridge  
2 has increased 34.5 percent and at the Kuparuk River has increased 45 percent; and

3           **WHEREAS** the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, the Bureau of  
4 Land Management, and other agencies are providing waysides, campgrounds, and other  
5 facilities for the increasing number of travelers on the Dalton Highway; and

6           **WHEREAS** there is a strong demand from these travelers for unrestricted private  
7 vehicle access to the Arctic Ocean; and

8           **WHEREAS** the Alaska division of tourism's official state map shows the Dalton  
9 Highway reaching the Arctic Ocean shores; and

10          **WHEREAS** travelers wishing to take their vehicles or bicycles to the shore of the  
11 Arctic Ocean are prohibited access seven miles short of their goal by an oil company check  
12 point; and

13          **WHEREAS** the only existing access to the shore of the Arctic Ocean is through  
14 payment to an oil company authorized bus tour operator; and

15          **WHEREAS** a 1995 report by the University of Alaska stated "A large number of  
16 visitors expressed disappointment in not being allowed ocean access without payment, others  
17 with large families could not afford the cost, and others were livid with the restriction"; and

18          **WHEREAS** the East Dock Road is built to federal highway secondary standards,  
19 provides a safe and short route to the ocean from Deadhorse, and bypasses major industrial  
20 areas; and

21          **WHEREAS** the East Dock Road is used very infrequently and only for oil spill  
22 training; and

23          **WHEREAS** the East Dock Road gravel pad is ideal for establishment of a visitor  
24 wayside, complete with travelers' facilities; and

25          **WHEREAS**, in an era of declining oil revenues, Alaska's tourism industry will benefit  
26 from travelers' desire for unrestricted access to the Arctic Ocean; and

27          **WHEREAS** tourism is the second largest employer in the state; and

28          **WHEREAS** the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities and the oil industry  
29 can resolve concerns that presently restrict access to the ocean;

30          **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature supports opening the last few  
31 miles of the Dalton Highway to provide unrestricted public access to the Arctic Ocean; and

1 be it

2 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the  
3 Governor to direct the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities to move  
4 expeditiously in providing visitor access and facilities at one of Alaska's incomparable  
5 destinations, the shores of the Arctic Ocean.