

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 10
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWENTIETH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVE HUDSON

Introduced: 2/17/97

Referred: Transportation

A RESOLUTION

1 Supporting construction of the east Lynn Canal highway.

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

3 WHEREAS there is a need to improve surface transportation to Juneau because the
4 state ferries can accommodate only one-seventh of the people wanting to travel to or from
5 Juneau, and improved access to Juneau will improve the quality of life for most residents of
6 the Lynn Canal area; and

7 WHEREAS the current surface transportation bottleneck in the Lynn Canal area
8 affects local, regional, interstate, and international movement of people, goods, and services;
9 and

10 WHEREAS proposals to improve surface access to Juneau have been studied for more
11 than 70 years; and

12 WHEREAS the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities is again evaluating
13 ways to improve surface transportation between Juneau and Haines, Skagway, and the rest of
14 Alaska and North America; and

15 WHEREAS a land highway is the most efficient way to increase the options and
16 opportunity for travel to and from Juneau and to reduce the time and cost of travel to and
17 from Juneau; and

1 **WHEREAS** the construction of 65 miles of land highway on the east shore of Lynn
2 Canal is technically feasible, economically justified, and fundable and faces no insurmountable
3 environmental obstacles; and

4 **WHEREAS** the construction, operation, and maintenance of a land highway along the
5 east shore of Lynn Canal to connect Juneau with Skagway and Haines would complement the
6 transportation services provided in Southeast Alaska by the Alaska marine highway system
7 and would allow a mainline ferry vessel of the Alaska marine highway system to provide
8 additional transportation services to other areas of Southeast Alaska that do not have the
9 option of surface road transportation to other communities; and

10 **WHEREAS** the proposed east Lynn Canal highway would lower the cost-of-living for
11 residents of Haines and Skagway; and

12 **WHEREAS** the proposed east Lynn Canal highway would be a very scenic highway
13 and would provide access to new recreation areas for Alaskans; and

14 **WHEREAS** the proposed east Lynn Canal highway would provide over \$40,000,000
15 in economic benefits to the mining interests in the Lynn Canal area; and

16 **WHEREAS** more than 75 percent of the residents of Juneau believe that improved
17 access is important to their community while only 3 percent of the residents of Juneau,
18 Haines, and Skagway believe that there are no transportation needs; and

19 **WHEREAS** there is an opportunity for unique funding to construct the east Lynn
20 Canal highway that would not affect the funding for other projects in Alaska;

21 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature supports construction of the east
22 Lynn Canal highway at the earliest possible date.