

CS FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 56(RLS)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTIETH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE RULES COMMITTEE

Offered: 3/31/98

Referred: Rules

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES HUDSON, Williams, Kookesh, Dyson, Kemplen, James, Croft

A RESOLUTION

1 **Relating to yttrium mining and transfer of the linear induction motor research**
2 **vehicle to Alaska.**

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

4 **WHEREAS** yttrium bearing and other rare earth minerals have been identified in large
5 quantities on Prince of Wales Island; and

6 **WHEREAS** the Prince of Wales deposits are the only known deposits of yttrium
7 bearing minerals in North America; and

8 **WHEREAS**, based on the present world market, one pound of 99.9999 pure yttrium
9 has a market value of \$320,000; and

10 **WHEREAS** the presence of yttrium in the state offers Southeast Alaska a potential
11 economic development opportunity in the areas of mining, refining, research, and
12 manufacturing; and

13 **WHEREAS** the local availability of refined yttrium metal could promote the
14 establishment of a major research and manufacturing facility for yttrium-based products in
15 Southeast Alaska, resulting in new career opportunities for Alaskans; and

16 **WHEREAS** products manufactured using yttrium and technology involving yttrium

1 include powerful frictionless motors and magnetic levitation equipment for use in
2 transportation systems, superconducting fault limiters, electromagnetic mass launchers, and
3 yttrium coated tapes and wire; yttrium wire can also be used in medical equipment, including
4 field magnets in MRI-scanning machines; and

5 **WHEREAS** the firm of Power Superconductor Applications Corporation, based in
6 Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, has expressed an interest in working with the state to establish
7 manufacturing and research facilities in Southeast Alaska using the local workforce and local
8 facilities; and

9 **WHEREAS** Power Superconductor Applications Corporation has requested assistance
10 from the state in securing use of a 30-ton linear induction motor research vehicle (LIMRV)
11 currently in storage by the Federal Railroad Administration; and

12 **WHEREAS** the LIMRV is expected to become part of a four-year based retrofit and
13 research project involving yttrium, yttrium products, and yttrium technology; and

14 **WHEREAS** the retrofit and research project is expected to start in 1998 and could lead
15 to the establishment of a new \$3,100,000 yttrium and yttrium products manufacturing facility
16 in Southeast Alaska, employing 55 Alaskans; once transfer of the LIMRV to the State of
17 Alaska takes place, 15 new jobs for Alaskans are expected to be established immediately; and

18 **WHEREAS** requests for funding to establish new yttrium industrial and research
19 sectors in Southeast Alaska are not currently being made by the state;

20 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature would welcome a transfer of the
21 linear induction motor research vehicle (LIMRV) to the state as a federal contribution to
22 establishment of a new industrial and research sector located in Southeast Alaska; and be it

23 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the Federal Railroad
24 Administration, the Alaska Congressional delegation, and the Governor to facilitate transfer
25 of the LIMRV to Alaska for a period of at least four years.

26 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to Ms. Jolene M. Molitoris, Administrator,
27 Federal Railroad Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation; and to the Honorable Ted
28 Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young,
29 U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.