

STATE OF ALASKA
THE LEGISLATURE

1999

Source
CSSCR 7(RES)

Legislative
Resolve No.
7



Supporting the responsible development of the Tulsequah Chief Mine through the cooperative effort of Alaska and British Columbia and urging Governor Knowles to withdraw his request for a referral of the Tulsequah Chief Mine to the International Joint Commission under the Boundary Waters Treaty.

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

WHEREAS the governments of Alaska and British Columbia both recognize the importance of environmentally responsible development in meeting the needs of their respective populations; and

WHEREAS the Tulsequah Chief Mine project has been subjected to over three years of thorough environmental review including completion of the cooperative environmental assessment review process of British Columbia and Canada; and

WHEREAS representatives of British Columbian and Canadian federal agencies, as well as agencies from Alaska and the United States, have participated with the project committee; and

WHEREAS, subsequent to the issuance of the Environmental Assessment Certificate in March of 1998, these governmental agencies engaged in a series of cooperative meetings,

discussions, and exchanges of technical details regarding the project; and

WHEREAS these constructive and cooperative interactions have allowed officials to review in detail how British Columbia and Canada will respond to the specific technical concerns raised by officials of Alaska and the United States, and, in most cases, the planned responses are along the lines proposed by these same officials; and

WHEREAS these exchanges have allowed the parties to explore and understand the differences between their respective approaches to accountable environmental assessment and have allowed the Canadian participants to demonstrate that the environmental standards applied to the project are similar in measure to those applied to similar projects in Alaska; and

WHEREAS the government of British Columbia has provided clear assurances that the mine will not be developed if it fails to meet these standards; and

WHEREAS the government of British Columbia has offered to have officials of Alaska and the United States continue to be involved in the review of the project by participating in specific permitting activities as further detailed permitting takes place; and

WHEREAS the government of British Columbia, as well as the Alaska agencies, have a great deal of confidence in the environmental assessment process and recognize that the technically detailed permits will be thoroughly reviewed as the project proceeds; and

WHEREAS continued cooperative work within British Columbia's established regulatory process will help ensure that the development of the Tulsequah Chief Mine takes place in an environmentally responsible manner; and

WHEREAS the government of British Columbia has made assurances that the development of the Tulsequah Chief Mine will result in no transboundary impacts;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature recommends continuing the cooperative effort between the two governments toward the environmentally responsible development of the Tulsequah Chief Mine; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully urges Governor Knowles to withdraw the request for a referral of the Tulsequah Chief Mine project to the International Joint Commission under the Boundary Waters Treaty.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Tony Knowles, Governor of Alaska; to the Honorable Lloyd Axworthy, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Government of Canada; to the Honorable Dan Miller, Minister of Energy and Mines of the Government

of British Columbia; to the Honorable Bill Goodacre, Member, Legislative Assembly of British Columbia; to the Honorable Madeleine K. Albright, United States Secretary of State; 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.