

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 35

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWENTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY SENATORS DAVIS, Phillips

Introduced: 2/19/02

Referred: Transportation, Finance

A RESOLUTION

1 **Supporting funding for federal highway programs.**

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

3 **WHEREAS** the budget plan proposed for the federal fiscal year beginning October 1,
4 2002, by President George W. Bush seeks to reduce the appropriation to the Federal Highway
5 Administration by \$8,500,000,000; and

6 **WHEREAS** the proposed reduction of funding for federal highway programs by more
7 than 25 percent, from the \$32,100,000,000 that is currently available during this federal fiscal
8 year, will substantially reduce the amount of money available to the states, including Alaska,
9 for highway construction under the federal-aid highway program administered by the Federal
10 Highway Administration; and

11 **WHEREAS** a safe and efficient highway system is essential to maintain the free flow
12 of goods and people in interstate and intrastate commerce and safe transportation systems for
13 the traveling public; and

14 **WHEREAS** continued support for federal highway programs that are critical to
15 maintenance of a sound transportation system is essential to speeding economic recovery
16 throughout the nation; and

1 **WHEREAS** 40,000 jobs are created throughout the nation for each \$1,000,000,000
2 that is expended for highways; and

3 **WHEREAS** thousands of jobs throughout the nation, including Alaska, will be lost as
4 the result of the reduction in funding for federal highway programs that is proposed by
5 President Bush; and

6 **WHEREAS** U.S. Senator James M. Jeffords, chair of the United States Senate
7 Committee on Environment and Public Works, and U.S. Representative Don Young, chair of
8 the United States House of Representatives Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure,
9 have each introduced legislation to restore about \$4,400,000,000 in funding for federal
10 highway programs; and

11 **WHEREAS** there is a cash surplus of \$20,000,000,000 in the federal highway trust
12 fund to provide the funds for the additional expenditures for federal highway programs that
13 are proposed in the legislation proposed by Senator Jeffords and Representative Young; and

14 **WHEREAS** the surplus in the federal highway trust fund is anticipated to grow to
15 \$74,000,000,000 in 10 years;

16 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests President
17 George W. Bush to reconsider the reductions that are proposed in the budget plan for federal
18 highway programs for the federal fiscal year beginning October 1, 2002, and to restore
19 funding for federal highway programs to current levels; and be it

20 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature supports the legislation
21 introduced by U.S. Senator James M. Jeffords and U.S. Representative Don Young to restore
22 at least \$4,400,000,000 in funding for federal highway programs for the federal fiscal year
23 beginning October 1, 2002, and urges the Congress to pass the legislation, if funding for
24 federal highway programs is not restored to current levels.

25 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable George W. Bush, The
26 President of the United States; the Honorable Robert C. Byrd, President Pro Tempore, U.S.
27 Senate; the Honorable J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the
28 Honorable James M. Jeffords, Chair, U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public
29 Works; the Honorable Don Young, Chair, U.S. House of Representatives Committee on
30 Transportation and Infrastructure; the Honorable Norman Y. Mineta, U.S. Secretary of
31 Transportation; Mary E. Peters, Administrator, Federal Highway Administration, U.S.

- 1 Department of Transportation; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank
- 2 Murkowski, U.S. Senators, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.