

(LIMITED RUN SHOWING ALL ADDITIONAL SPONSORSHIPS)

SENATE CS FOR CS FOR HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 2(CRA)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE SENATE COMMUNITY AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Offered: 3/6/03

Referred: Transportation

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES LYNN, Chenault, Coghill, Foster, Gatto, Harris, Hawker, Kohring, Kott, Morgan, Rokeberg, Seaton, Stoltze, Whitaker, Wolf, Dahlstrom, Guttenberg, Fate, Gruenberg, Holm, Masek, Anderson, Meyer, Wilson, McGuire

SENATORS Wilken, Ogan, Taylor, Dyson, Gary Stevens, Therriault, Cowdery

A RESOLUTION

1 **Relating to the extension of the Alaska Railroad to Delta Junction and Fort Greely to**
2 **support expanding resource development, agricultural, and military activities.**

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

4 **WHEREAS** the United States Department of Defense has begun to construct an anti-
5 ballistic missile testing and launch facility at Fort Greely, Alaska; and

6 **WHEREAS** United States Army Alaska is developing new range areas at Fort Greely
7 to support the training of the new Stryker Brigade; and

8 **WHEREAS** the world-class mining operation at Pogo located near Delta Junction is
9 projected to commence construction in the fall of 2003 and operate for at least 11 years, and a
10 more cost-efficient transportation system would assist such a mining venture; and

11 **WHEREAS** the agricultural industry in the Delta Junction area would become more
12 cost efficient, competitive, and able to expand if access to markets were less expensive; and

13 **WHEREAS** a railroad is well suited to provide the transportation support required to
14 sustain military operations as well as provide a cost-efficient method of transporting goods
15 and services for both mining and agricultural activities in the region; and

16 **WHEREAS** the Alaska Railroad already has rail lines extending to Eielson Air Force

1 Base, which is within 70 miles of Delta Junction and Fort Greely; and

2 **WHEREAS** the Alaska Railroad can efficiently provide transportation services for
3 heavy cargo and large quantities of supplies to the region from the ports of Seward, Whittier,
4 and Anchorage while economically delivering the region's mining and agricultural products to
5 market; and

6 **WHEREAS** the extension of the Alaska Railroad to Delta Junction and Fort Greely is
7 consistent with the long-term goals of the Alaska Railroad Corporation and the State of
8 Alaska to extend rail service through Canada to the lower 48 states;

9 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests Governor
10 Frank Murkowski to encourage the Alaska Railroad Corporation to undertake the extension of
11 the Alaska Railroad to Delta Junction and Fort Greely in order to support the region's
12 expanding resource development, agricultural, and military activities.

13 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable George W. Bush, President
14 of the United States; the Honorable Donald Rumsfeld, United States Secretary of Defense;
15 Patrick Gamble, President and Chief Executive Officer, Alaska Railroad Corporation; and to
16 the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the
17 Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.