

**HCS FOR CS FOR SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1(TRA) am H**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

**BY THE HOUSE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

**Amended: 4/7/03**

**Offered: 3/28/03**

**Sponsor(s): SENATORS WILKEN, Therriault, Seekins, Taylor, Dyson, Gary Stevens, Ben Stevens, Cowdery, Hoffman, Green**

**REPRESENTATIVES Lynn, Ogg, Wilson, Holm, Dahlstrom**

**A RESOLUTION**

1 **Relating to economic development generated by new road construction and to the design**  
2 **and construction of the Hot Springs Loop Road to connect Chena Hot Springs and**  
3 **Circle Hot Springs, of a highway along the Bradfield/Iskut Rivers transportation**  
4 **corridor, of the Knik Arm Crossing, of a road from Iliamna Bay to Pile Bay, and of**  
5 **other roads and highways.**

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

7 **WHEREAS** new roads are needed to connect communities with the resources that  
8 create the increased potential for commercial, industrial, recreational, and social activities for  
9 residents and visitors; and

10 **WHEREAS** new local roads will allow Alaskans to get to local schools and health  
11 facilities and to quickly respond to local emergency situations; and

12 **WHEREAS** improving the transportation infrastructure in Alaska is vital to the  
13 economic growth and prosperity of the state; and

14 **WHEREAS** Alaska is the largest state in the Union, comprising one-fifth of the total  
15 area of the continental United States, yet Alaska has barely 2,000 miles of roadways, less than

1 the state of Vermont; and

2 **WHEREAS** the proposed Hot Springs Loop Road from Chena Hot Springs to Circle  
3 Hot Springs will complete a transportation loop connecting Fairbanks and the two resort areas  
4 and will open areas of Interior Alaska for residents and visitors to explore, enjoy, and  
5 develop; and

6 **WHEREAS** the Hot Springs Loop Road would connect the Steese Highway with the  
7 Chena Hot Springs Road either through or around the Steese National Conservation Area; and

8 **WHEREAS** the Hot Springs Loop Road will allow residents and tourists an  
9 opportunity to drive the scenic loop between Fairbanks and the resort areas at Chena Hot  
10 Springs and Circle Hot Springs; and

11 **WHEREAS** the Hot Springs Loop Road will foster increased outdoor activities, new  
12 tourism ventures, and economic growth in Interior Alaska; and

13 **WHEREAS** construction of a highway along the Bradfield/Iskut Rivers transportation  
14 corridor would increase the traffic flow between Southeast Alaska and the Alaska marine  
15 highway to British Columbia by permitting a more efficient flow of travelers into and out of  
16 the region; and

17 **WHEREAS** a transportation corridor between Southeast Alaska and British Columbia  
18 would generate recreational growth benefiting Alaskans and British Columbians; and

19 **WHEREAS** communities in southern Southeast Alaska have suffered immense and  
20 catastrophic declines in their economic base due to removal of the timber industry as a key  
21 component of their economies by the previous national administration; and

22 **WHEREAS** the Alaska marine highway system is placing severe constraints on the  
23 shipment of fresh seafood to United States and Canadian markets because it has a policy to  
24 maximize revenue in the summer period at the expense of reserved deck space for fresh  
25 seafood containers, because the capacity to transport shipping vans has been severely  
26 curtailed due to international SOLAS shipping standard requirements, and because the Prince  
27 Rupert transfer bridge is not of sufficient weight carrying capacity; and

28 **WHEREAS** the shipment of fresh seafood, both caught and processed domestically,  
29 by way of airlines is both capacity constrained and expensive, thus denying efficiencies and  
30 potential markets for high margin fresh seafood products; and

31 **WHEREAS** a land transportation link to the North American highway system could

1 provide viable development of new vocations resulting from new economic growth; and

2 **WHEREAS** the southern region of Southeast Alaska has been negatively affected in  
3 recent years with individual fishery quota (IFQ) landings moving to road-connected  
4 communities such as Haines and Prince Rupert; and

5 **WHEREAS** the people of southern Southeast Alaska wish to increase trade with our  
6 Canadian neighbors; and

7 **WHEREAS** the Knik Arm Crossing project has been identified as a project that  
8 would have a profound effect on future development in Southcentral Alaska; and

9 **WHEREAS** construction of a road from Iliamna Bay to Pile Bay on Lake Iliamna will  
10 provide a greatly enhanced transportation route to Lake Iliamna, Newhalen, Lake Clark, the  
11 upper Bristol Bay area, several mineral deposits, and unparalleled recreational opportunities  
12 and will provide for more economical transportation of food, fuel, and materials to the several  
13 villages in the area; and

14 **WHEREAS** the Donlin Creek Road project has been identified as a project that will  
15 greatly enhance economic development and establish a transportation corridor in the  
16 Kuskokwim area, which will have a profound effect on future development in the region; and

17 **WHEREAS** the Ralph M. Bartholomew Veterans' Memorial Bridge connecting the  
18 City of Ketchikan to Gravina Island has been identified as a project that will provide needed  
19 access to the Ketchikan International Airport and foster future development of Gravina Island;  
20 and

21 **WHEREAS** the East Lynn Canal Road connecting the City of Juneau with northern  
22 Southeast Alaska communities would have a profound impact on the economy of Juneau and  
23 enhance regional development and transportation infrastructure;

24 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature recognizes that the economic  
25 development activity generated by the construction of new roads is important to the growth  
26 and prosperity of the state; and be it

27 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature supports the design and  
28 construction of the Hot Springs Loop Road to provide a scenic loop route to connect  
29 Fairbanks and the resort areas at Chena Hot Springs and Circle Hot Springs; and be it

30 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature supports the efforts of  
31 Governor Frank Murkowski and the City of Wrangell to continue their work with the

1 Province of British Columbia, and Cassiar and Yellowhead Highways communities in their  
 2 efforts to reach an agreement to construct a highway along the Bradfield/Iskut Rivers  
 3 transportation corridor; and be it

4 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature supports the pre-National  
 5 Environmental Policy Act scoping and environmental impact statement process and the  
 6 design and construction of a highway along the Bradfield/Iskut Rivers transportation corridor  
 7 to connect southern Southeast Alaska to British Columbia; and be it

8 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature supports the design and  
 9 construction of the Knik Arm Crossing and a road from Iliamna Bay to Pile Bay; and be it

10 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature supports the continued  
 11 effort for construction of the Donlin Creek Road; and be it

12 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature supports the design and  
 13 construction of a road to Rock Creek, bypassing Moon Light Springs, for development of  
 14 mineral extraction operations on the Seward Peninsula; and be it

15 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature supports the design and  
 16 construction of the Ralph M. Bartholomew Veterans' Memorial Bridge to connect the City of  
 17 Ketchikan and Gravina Island and the East Lynn Canal Road alignment connecting the City  
 18 of Juneau to northern Southeast Alaska.

19 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Frank Murkowski, Governor  
 20 of Alaska; the Honorable Mike Barton, Commissioner, Department of Transportation and  
 21 Public Facilities; Al Ewing, Chief of Staff, Denali Commission; Rick Van Nieuwenhuysse,  
 22 President and Chief Executive Officer, NovaGold Resources Inc.; the mayors of the  
 23 Municipality of Anchorage, Fairbanks North Star Borough, City of Fairbanks, City and  
 24 Borough of Juneau, City of Wrangell, City of Petersburg, Ketchikan Gateway Borough, City  
 25 of Ketchikan, City of Klawock, City of Craig, Kenai Peninsula Borough, City of Homer, City  
 26 of Kenai, City of Soldotna, Matanuska-Susitna Borough, City of Wasilla, City of Palmer,  
 27 Lake and Peninsula Borough, and City of Nome; the Postmasters of Central, Circle, Pedro  
 28 Bay, Iliamna, Crooked Creek, and Red Devil; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the  
 29 Honorable Lisa Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S.  
 30 Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.