

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 7

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES WEYHRAUCH, Olson

Introduced: 3/21/05

Referred: Special Order of Business

A RESOLUTION

1 **Supporting the efforts of the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities to**
2 **improve transportation to and from Juneau and supporting development of the East**
3 **Lynn Canal Highway.**

4 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:**

5 **WHEREAS** Juneau is the largest community on the North American continent not
6 connected to the continental highway system; and

7 **WHEREAS**, because of its location and lack of highway access, all freight, vehicle,
8 and passenger movement to and from Juneau is by air or sea; and

9 **WHEREAS** the Juneau Access Improvements Project is to provide improved
10 transportation to and from Juneau within the Lynn Canal corridor; and

11 **WHEREAS** the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities studied
12 multiple alternatives, including increased ferry service, to fulfill the National Environmental
13 Policy Act requirements; and

14 **WHEREAS** the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities and the
15 Federal Highway Administration issued a draft environmental impact statement for the Juneau

1 Access Improvement Project in June 1997; and

2 **WHEREAS**, following review and consideration of the public and agency comments
3 received on the draft environmental impact statement, Governor Tony Knowles announced in
4 2000 that Alternative 2, the East Lynn Canal Highway with Katzehin Terminal, was the
5 preferred alternative for the proposed project; and

6 **WHEREAS** the East Lynn Canal Highway would provide the greatest increase in
7 flexibility and opportunity for travel; and

8 **WHEREAS** the East Lynn Canal Highway would have the lowest maintenance and
9 operating cost of all alternatives; and

10 **WHEREAS** the East Lynn Canal Highway would have the lowest out-of-pocket cost
11 for travelers of all project alternatives; and

12 **WHEREAS** the East Lynn Canal Highway would eliminate 200 miles from the
13 Alaska marine highway route, allowing ferries to be utilized on other routes in Southeast
14 Alaska; and

15 **WHEREAS** the East Lynn Canal Highway would allow access to the Kensington
16 Mine; and

17 **WHEREAS** the East Lynn Canal Highway would provide an alternative to the all-
18 marine transport of goods into Juneau; and

19 **WHEREAS** the East Lynn Canal Highway would provide Juneau with an emergency
20 evacuation alternative; and

21 **WHEREAS** the East Lynn Canal Highway would open up an entire region to
22 recreation and tourism, which would result in economic development of benefit to all
23 Alaskans;

24 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska House of Representatives supports the
25 Department of Transportation and Public Facilities' efforts to improve transportation to and
26 from Juneau within Lynn Canal; and

27 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska House of Representatives supports
28 the Juneau Access Preferred Alternative 2, the East Lynn Canal Highway with Katzehin
29 Terminal.

30 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Don Young, U.S.
31 Representative, Alaska delegate to the House of Representatives of the United States

- 1 Congress; the Honorable Frank H. Murkowski, Governor of Alaska; the Honorable Mike
- 2 Barton, Commissioner, Department of Transportation and Public Facilities; and Reuben Yost,
- 3 Department of Transportation and Public Facilities.