

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 2

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATORS STEDMAN, Therriault, Wilken, Seekins, Gary Stevens, Wagoner, Green

Introduced: 3/21/05

Referred: Taken Up

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 SENATE:**

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 186 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 State Senate supports the Department of
25 Transportation and Public Facilities' efforts to improve transportation to and from Juneau
26 within Lynn Canal; and

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

29 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the
30 Honorable Lisa Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S.
31 Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress; the Honorable Frank H.

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