

1. IN THE SENATE

BY SENATORS SNIDER, GORSUCH,  
ROBISON AND EGAN

2.

3. SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 2

4. IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE TERRITORY OF ALASKA

5. TWENTY-FIRST SESSION

6. TO THE HONORABLE DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED  
7. STATES OF AMERICA; THE UNITED STATES SENATE; THE UNITED STATES  
8. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES; THE HONORABLE DOUGLAS MCKAY, SECRETARY  
9. OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR; THE HONORABLE TAFT BENSON,  
10. SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE; THE HONORABLE  
11. SECRETARY OF THE ARMY; THE HONORABLE E. L. BARTLETT, DELEGATE TO  
12. CONGRESS FROM ALASKA; THE COMMANDING GENERAL, UNITED STATES ARMY;  
13. THE COMMANDING GENERAL, ALASKAN COMMAND; THE COMMANDING GENERAL,  
14. UNITED STATES ARMY, ALASKA, AND THE DIRECTOR, BUREAU OF THE  
15. BUDGET, WASHINGTON D. C.:

16. Your Memorialist, the Legislature of the Territory of Alaska,  
17. in Twenty-first Regular Session assembled, respectfully submits  
18. that:

19. WHEREAS, the people of Alaska desire to attract new industry  
20. and new population to the Territory, to develop Alaska's economy  
21. to a high level, resulting in a higher standard of living and the  
22. creation of "Taxable Treasure" through utilization of natural  
23. resources; and

24. WHEREAS, Wood Canyon on the Copper River, the largest remain-  
25. ing undeveloped hydroelectric power site on the Pacific Coast of  
26. the United States, has been under investigation during the past  
27. few years; and

28. WHEREAS, development of the Wood Canyon power site would  
29. attract and permit the establishment of aluminum and/or other

1. light metals industries and other large consumers of low-cost  
2. hydroelectric energy in the electrochemical and electromet-  
3. allurgical fields; and

4. WHEREAS, copper deposits in the region are not being worked  
5. during a period of serious copper shortages throughout the free  
6. world owing to the lack of surface transportation to Cordova,  
7. Alaska, a year-round, deep-water seaport; and

8. WHEREAS, the Katalla petroleum province, also adjacent to  
9. Cordova, cannot be explored adequately, or brought into actual  
10. production without construction of an access road link with  
11. Cordova; and

12. WHEREAS, the Bering River coal field, estimated to cover  
13. more than 50 square miles and to contain more than two billion  
14. tons of coal ranging in rank from sub-bituminous to anthracite,  
15. including unknown quantities of metallurgical-grade coking coal,  
16. remains undeveloped because no highway links the coal field with  
17. port facilities at Cordova; and

18. WHEREAS, it already has been demonstrated that construction  
19. of the Copper River Highway not only is feasible from the engin-  
20. eering standpoint, but also may be placed in the "low-cost" con-  
21. struction category since use of the abandoned Copper River and  
22. Northwestern Railroad bed, including several steel bridges which  
23. are in good condition, are involved; and

24. WHEREAS, the 109-mile right-of-way is the property of the  
25. United States Government; and

26. WHEREAS, construction of the Copper River Highway would  
27. provide an alternative route from the Gulf of Alaska to defense  
28. installations in Interior Alaska, important in the defense scher  
29. of the Territory,

1. NOW THEREFORE, Your Memorialist, the Legislature of the  
2. Territory of Alaska, in Twenty-First Regular Session Assembled,  
3. respectfully urges that the construction program of the Copper  
4. River Highway, now under way on a piecemeal basis, be accelerated  
5. to permit development of resources of the region at the earliest  
6. possible moment.

7. AND YOUR MEMORIALIST WILL EVER PRAY.

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