

1 IN THE SENATE

BY SENATORS SNIDER, GORSUCH
ROBISON AND EGAN

2

SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 2

3

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE TERRITORY OF ALASKA

4

TWENTY-FIRST SESSION

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

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

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

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

26 WHEREAS, development of the Wood Canyon power site would
27 attract and permit the establishment of aluminum and/or other
28 light metals industries and other large consumers of low-cost
29 hydroelectric energy in the electrochemical and electromet-

1 metallurgical fields; and

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

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

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

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

22 WHEREAS, the 109-mile right-of-way is the property of the
23 United States Government; and

24 WHEREAS, construction of the Copper River Highway would
25 provide an alternative route from the Gulf of Alaska to defense
26 installations in Interior Alaska, important in the defense scheme
27 of the Territory,

28 NOW THEREFORE, Your Memorialist, the Legislature of the
29 Territory of Alaska, in Twenty-First Regular Session Assembled,

S.J.M.No. 2 as amended

1 respectfully urges that the construction program of the Copper
2 River Highway, now under way on a piecemeal basis, be accelerated
3 to permit development of resources of the region at the earliest
4 possible moment.

5 AND YOUR MEMORIALIST WILL EVER PRAY.

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SJM #2 as amended