

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY MR. KALAMARIDES

2 HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 15

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE TERRITORY OF ALASKA

4 TWENTY-SECOND SESSION

5 TO THE HONORABLE DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED  
6 STATES OF AMERICA; THE HONORABLE RICHARD NIXON, PRESIDENT OF THE  
7 UNITED STATES SENATE; THE HONORABLE SAM RAYBURN, SPEAKER OF THE  
8 UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES; THE HONORABLE CARL HAYDEN,  
9 CHAIRMAN, SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS; THE HONORABLE  
10 CLARENCE CANNON, CHAIRMAN, HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS; THE  
11 HONORABLE E. L. BARTLETT, DELEGATE TO CONGRESS FROM ALASKA:

12 Your Memorialist, the Legislature of the Territory of Alaska,  
13 in Twenty-second Regular Session assembled, respectfully submits  
14 that:

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

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

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

29 WHEREAS, copper deposits in the region are not being worked

1 during a period of serious copper shortages throughout the free  
2 world owing to the lack of surface transportation to Cordova,  
3 Alaska, a year-round, deep-water seaport; and

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

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

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

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

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

26 NOW THEREFORE, your Memorialist, the Legislature of the  
27 Territory of Alaska, in Twenty-second Regular Session Assembled,  
28 respectfully urges that the construction program of the Copper  
29 River Highway, now under way on a piecemeal basis, be accelerated

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to permit development of resources of the region at the earliest possible moment.

AND YOUR MEMORIALIST WILL EVER PRAY.