

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY MRS. FISCHER

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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 53

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

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FIRST LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

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TO THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE ALASKA INTERNATIONAL RAIL AND HIGH-

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WAY COMMISSION; THE HONORABLE CHRISTIAN A. HERTER, SECRETARY OF

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STATE; THE HONORABLE ERNEST GRUENING, SENATOR FROM ALASKA; AND THE

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HONORABLE RALPH J. RIVERS, REPRESENTATIVE FROM ALASKA:

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Your Memorialist, the Legislature of the State of Alaska in

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First Legislature, Second Session assembled respectfully submits

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that:

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WHEREAS, it is an important lesson of history that the con-

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struction of railroads to link the farthest reaches of a nation

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with the heartland has always more than paid for itself through

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benefits to the nation in general, the American trans-continental

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and the Russian trans-Siberian railways being the most outstanding

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historical examples; and

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WHEREAS, not only are construction costs self-liquidating, but

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the rate of self-liquidation is amazingly fast; and

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WHEREAS, it would be a most unworthy display of the failure to

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learn from history if the United States were to ignore the absence,

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a most sorely felt absence, of railroad communication between

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Alaska and the heartland of the United States;

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NOW THEREFORE, Your Memorialist urges the federal government

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to heed the lessons of history and to proceed with all speed to

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fill the unsound vacuum which exists in the continental railway

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system.

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HJM #53