

1 IN THE SENATE BY SENATOR METCALF  
2 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 38  
3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA  
4 FIRST LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION  
5 TO THE HONORABLE E. L. BARTLETT AND THE HONORABLE ERNEST GRUENING,  
6 SENATORS FROM ALASKA; THE HONORABLE RALPH J. RIVERS, REPRESENTA-  
7 TIVE FROM ALASKA; THE HONORABLE WILLIAM A. EGAN, GOVERNOR OF  
8 ALASKA; THE HONORABLE BERTRAM D. TALLAMY, FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMIN-  
9 ISTRATOR, BUREAU OF PUBLIC ROADS; THE HONORABLE RICHARD E. MC-  
10 ARDLE, CHIEF, FOREST SERVICE, UNITED STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICUL-  
11 TURE; THE HONORABLE P. D. HANSON, REGIONAL FORESTER, FOREST SERVICE;  
12 THE HONORABLE RICHARD A. DOWNING, COMMISSIONER, DEPARTMENT OF  
13 PUBLIC WORKS; AND THE HONORABLE WILLIAM J. NIEMI, REGIONAL ENGINEER,  
14 BUREAU OF PUBLIC ROADS:

15 Your Memorialist, the Legislature of the State of Alaska in  
16 First Legislature, Second Session assembled, respectfully submits  
17 that:

18 WHEREAS, the communities of Homer, Anchor Point, Ninilchik,  
19 Kasilof, Soldotna, Kenai, Sterling and Cooper Landing are pre-  
20 sently connected with the all-winter port of Seward by means of  
21 the Sterling Highway; and

22 WHEREAS, the Sterling Highway, from Cooper Landing to Seward  
23 presently traverses a roundabout and circuitous route by way of  
24 Moose Pass; and

25 WHEREAS, there exists a proposed route, much shorter in dis-  
26 tance, extending from the vicinity of Mile 56 on the Sterling  
27 Highway up through the valley of Lower and Upper Russian Lakes,  
28 thence down Resurrection River valley to the area of Seward,  
29 whereby the actual one-way driving distance from all of the com-

1 munities situated on the west side of the Kenai Peninsula to  
2 Seward could be reduced by approximately 25 miles; and

3 WHEREAS, such a reduction in driving distance would be  
4 highly beneficial to the petroleum companies carrying on oil  
5 drilling operations in the Kenai oil fields in the transportation  
6 of materials to and from the field of operations; and

7 WHEREAS, it is estimated that such a proposed route would  
8 also reduce the one-way driving distance between the Cooper Lake  
9 power installation and Seward by approximately 33 miles; and

10 WHEREAS, the highest elevation of such proposed route does  
11 not exceed 700 feet with a continuous gradual grade on the valley  
12 floors; and

13 WHEREAS, such proposed route lies in an area which is com-  
14 paratively free from the heavy snow falls experienced in other  
15 areas; and

16 WHEREAS, there presently exists adjacent to such proposed  
17 route numerous tourist attractions of glaciers, sport fishing,  
18 hunting and recreational areas; and

19 WHEREAS, the greater portion of such proposed route lies  
20 within the boundaries of the Chugach National Forest;

21 NOW THEREFORE, Your Memorialist urges and requests that the  
22 Forest Service, in cooperation with the Alaska Department of  
23 Public Works and with the Bureau of Public Roads, take such steps  
24 as are necessary to initiate the necessary preliminary engineer-  
25 ing survey of the feasibility and costs of the construction of  
26 such proposed route from the vicinity of Mile 56 on the Sterling  
27 Highway via Lower and Upper Russian Lakes and the Resurrection  
28 River valley to the vicinity of Mile 3 on the Seward-Moose Pass  
29 Highway.