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IN THE HOUSE

BY MR. HELLENTHAL

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 11

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

SECOND LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

Relating to extension of the
Alaska Railroad.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA IN SECOND
LEGISLATURE, FIRST SESSION ASSEMBLED:

There is an immediate need for the construction of branch
and feeder lines of the Alaska Railroad over a general use cause-
way across Turnagain Arm to the rich Kenai oil field and its sur-
rounding agricultural land; and over the Knik Arm to the lush
Susitna Valley, and eventually to the rich river barriers of the
Kuskokwim and the Yukon and through the Tanana Valley to the site
of the proposed Rampart Dam.

Economic development of Alaska and the unlocking of its
enormous resources is a pressing national problem. Railroads, for
economic development and military purposes, are urgently needed in
the pioneer state. Congress, over 47 years ago, passed the Alaska
Railroad Act and thereby recognized the need for federal develop-
ment of Alaska. The Alaska Railroad Act requires that a govern-
ment-owned railroad be constructed together "with the necessary
branch lines, feeders," in order to

"...aid in the development of the agricultural and
mineral or other resources of Alaska,..."

"...aid in ... the settlement of the public lands therein
... as to provide ... transportation of troops, arms,
munitions of war...."

No new railroad branches or spurs of any consequence have

1 been built in 47 years and thus the intent of Congress has been
2 thwarted. Alaska is largely deprived of highway aid and should
3 not be made to suffer further by total cessation of railroad
4 construction.

5 Homesteaders without transportation to markets already await
6 a rail carrier. They, instead of the government railroad, have
7 pioneered the Kenai, Susitna, and Tanana areas, ahead of bridges,
8 rails, and highways over frozen rivers. Depressed areas of
9 Alaska, presently constituting the areas where rail transportation
10 is necessary, will benefit if the program for the railroad, as
11 directed by Congress, is reactivated with vigor. Reactivation of
12 the railroad program will bring a return to normal employment
13 levels, industry will benefit and develop, and the military
14 strength in our northern bastion will be enhanced.

15 BE IT RESOLVED by the Legislature of the State of Alaska in
16 Second Legislature, First Session assembled that the Honorable
17 John F. Kennedy, President of the United States; the Honorable
18 Stewart L. Udall, Secretary of the Interior; and the members of
19 the Alaska delegation in Congress are respectfully urged to give
20 their full support to the reactivation of the Alaska Railroad
21 program.

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