

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY MR. A. HARRIS

2 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 19

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 SECOND LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Relating to a request urging com-
6 petitive bidding for the surface
7 mail transportation contract be-
8 tween Seward and Nikolski and
9 urging the enlargement of this
10 route to include Seattle.

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

13 WHEREAS, the well-being and standard of living of the
14 people of Kodiak, the Alaska Peninsula and the Aleutian Islands
15 and the future development and progress of this part of the state
16 is absolutely dependent on its water transportation and communi-
17 cation systems; and

18 WHEREAS, it appears from numerous sources (Postmaster
19 General's report, June 9, 1939; Senate Committee on Post Offices
20 and Post Roads, Report No. 955, July 26, 1939, Calendar No. 997;
21 and the Congressional Record, Vol. 84, Part 10, p. 10963) that
22 in awarding postal contracts the ability of the carrier to pro-
23 vide adequate passenger and freight service is an extremely
24 important consideration; and

25 WHEREAS, the people served by the present Seward-Nikolski
26 mail ship are not satisfied with their mail, passenger and freight
27 service as is apparent from petitions made by ten communities in
28 the area; and

29 WHEREAS, freight has been delayed as long as three months

1 because of the small size and slow speed of the present ship;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, the present ship lacks adequate facilities to
4 transport products requiring refrigeration; and

5 WHEREAS, freight rates charged by the present ship are much
6 higher than those of direct shipments; and

7 WHEREAS, present passenger accommodations are grossly in-
8 adequate, particularly for women and children; and

9 WHEREAS, the people on the Seward-Nikolski mail route
10 believe that their interests and the interests of the U. S. Post
11 Office Department could be better and less expensively served by
12 a much faster, larger and partially refrigerated ship operating
13 between Seattle, Seward and Nikolski; and

14 WHEREAS, the Seward-Nikolski mail contract has been extended
15 in the past without the benefit of competitive bidding; and

16 WHEREAS, competitive bidding for mail contracts with due
17 consideration given to the ability of the bidders to provide
18 adequate passenger and freight service has proven to be in the
19 best public interest;

20 BE IT RESOLVED by the Legislature of the State of Alaska in
21 Second Legislature, First Session assembled, that the U. S. Post
22 Office Department be respectfully urged to allow competitive bid-
23 ding for the surface mail contract between Seward and Nikolski,
24 and that this route be enlarged to include Seattle; and be it

25 FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be sent to
26 the Postmaster General of the United States; the Regional Director,
27 U. S. Post Office Department, Portland, Oregon; and the members
28 of the Alaska delegation in Congress.

29