

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 competi-  
6 tive bidding for the surface mail  
7 transportation contract between  
8 Seward and Nikolski and urging the  
9 enlargement of this route to include  
10 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 in the villages on Kodiak Island, the Alaska Peninsula  
15 and the Aleutian Islands and the future development and progress  
16 of this part of the state is absolutely dependent on its water  
17 transporation and communication 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.

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