

1 IN THE SENATE

BY SENATOR WEISE

2

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO.69

3

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

SECOND LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5

Relating to the construction of break-

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waters at Bethel.

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BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA IN SECOND

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LEGISLATURE, SECOND SESSION ASSEMBLED:

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WHEREAS the port of Bethel supplies the people living in the

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vast area drained by the Kuskokwim and Yukon Rivers with necessi-

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ties; and

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WHEREAS the port serves as a source of supply for the series

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of defense installations vital to the "White Alice" early warning

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system; and

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WHEREAS a station of the Alaska Communication System, a sta-

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tion of the Federal Aviation Agency, the area headquarters for the

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Bureau of Indian Affairs school operation in the Kuskokwim-Yukon

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River areas, the Native Service Hospital for that entire area, and

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the Alaska National Guard Scout Battalion are all located in

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Bethel; and

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WHEREAS the port of Kuskokwim, situated across the river about

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two miles from Bethel, has been abandoned and the facilities moved

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to Bethel so that Bethel is now the only inland seaport for ocean-

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going vessels between the Seward Peninsula and Bristol Bay, and is,

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therefore, the only major source of supply for the federal agencies

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and defense installations listed above; and

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WHEREAS the advantage of maintaining the port in Bethel

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rather than in Kuskokwim is that in Bethel there is no lighterage

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cost and handling time is reduced, which will eventually result in

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1 a reduction of the shipping costs to the community and to the  
2 federal agencies in the area; and

3 WHEREAS the docks at Bethel, built out in the Kuskokwim River,  
4 are in grave danger of being swept away when the spring breakup  
5 brings pans of ice downriver; and

6 WHEREAS the main road connecting the Alaska National Guard  
7 Hanger-Lake road and the Airport-military site road, which is the  
8 supply route to the "White Alice" system and which runs along the  
9 Kuskokwim River, is in danger of being completely destroyed by  
10 erosion caused by the action of the river; and

11 WHEREAS, if the main road is destroyed, it will cause extreme  
12 hardship to the government agencies supplied by it, and to the  
13 businesses and families situated adjacent to the road;

14 BE IT RESOLVED by the Legislature of the State of Alaska in  
15 Second Legislature, Second Session assembled, that the Secretary  
16 of the Army, through the Corps of Engineers, is respectfully urged  
17 to survey for and construct the following facilities: (1) a steel  
18 piling breakwater to protect the new docking facilities at Bethel  
19 from damage due to the ice runout during the spring breakup; and  
20 (2) a breakwater made of steel pilings, concrete slabs, or gasoline  
21 barrels filled with river silt to begin at Brown's Slough and ex-  
22 tend below the Standard Oil Co. loading barge dock downriver from  
23 the Standard Oil Co. tank farm, the breakwater designed to protect  
24 the main road from erosion; and be it

25 FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be mailed to  
26 the Honorable Elvis J. Stahr, Secretary of the Army; Colonel  
27 Christian Hanburger, District Engineer, Corps of Engineers, U. S.  
28 Army; and the members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.  
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