

1 IN THE SENATE BY FEDERAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

2 SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 25

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 SECOND LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Relating to the dredging of the
6 Dry Straits - Wrangell Narrows
7 district.

8 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE IN SECOND LEGISLATURE, FIRST SESSION
9 ASSEMBLED:

10 WHEREAS, increased lumber operations in Southeast Alaska have
11 resulted in greatly increased movement of log rafts in the Dry
12 Straits - Wrangell Narrows district; and

13 WHEREAS, logging and towboat operators are faced with the
14 choice of using Wrangell Narrows, which necessitates the breaking
15 of tows into small units and providing an extra tug as a safety
16 factor, or using Dry Straits, which is preferred in spite of its
17 inadequate depth; and

18 WHEREAS, fishing vessels are forced to use Dry Straits under
19 difficult conditions or lose several hours of running time by way
20 of Wrangell Narrows as they travel to the fishing grounds and
21 canneries; and

22 WHEREAS, to facilitate the export of Alaskan products, which
23 is ever-increasing, it is vital to provide ocean-going vessels with
24 a direct route between ports; and

25 WHEREAS, large ships of all types cannot utilize Wrangell
26 Narrows because of adverse currents and physical characteristics,
27 but must travel the outside passage by way of Cape Decision; and

28 WHEREAS, smaller freighters and passenger vessels are subject
29 to the tidal conditions and navigational hazards presented by

SR #25 as amended

1 Wrangell Narrows; and

2 WHEREAS, the ships of the proposed ferry system will be
3 economically facilitated by saving time in inter-port service if
4 Dry Straits is made available; and

5 WHEREAS, it is generally agreed that it is unfeasible to
6 enlarge or further improve Wrangell Narrows to accommodate larger
7 vessels; and

8 WHEREAS, if Dry Straits were dredged, it would offer a through
9 and complete inside passage from Prince Rupert to Skagway; and

10 WHEREAS, Dry Straits, if dredged, would be free of adverse
11 tidal conditions and navigational hazards;

12 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate in Second Legislature, First
13 Session assembled that the Corps of Engineers be requested to
14 investigate the feasibility of dredging the passage known as
15 Dry Straits in Southeast Alaska waters in order to create an all-
16 purpose channel to facilitate all modes of surface water trans-
17 portation in this region, thus benefitting the economy of the
18 State of Alaska. It is further requested that the Corps of
19 Engineers be requested to hold public hearings in Petersburg
20 and Wrangell.

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