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1 IN THE SENATE

2 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 37

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 FIFTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Expressing the Legislature's desire
6 that the National Park Service re-
7 consider its objections to the
8 construction of a road through
9 Katmai National Monument.

10 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

11 WHEREAS no adequate ferry boat terminus has been located on the Pacific
12 side of the Alaska Peninsula which would be an inducement for the extension
13 of the Kodiak ferry service to a prospective road across the peninsula; and

14 WHEREAS two splendid harbors, Geographic and Kukak are located within
15 the Katmai National Monument; and

16 WHEREAS years of study by the Alaska Department of Highways and other
17 agencies indicate that by far the most feasible and least expensive route
18 across the Alaska Peninsula lies within Katmai National Monument; and

19 WHEREAS the National Park Service has expressed its adamant opposition
20 to utilization of harbors and road construction in the monument; and

21 WHEREAS this opposition was based on the assertion that egress by road
22 from either Kukak or Geographic Harbors was virtually an impossible engineer-
23 ing feat due to the precipitous nature of the surrounding terrain; and

24 WHEREAS a very feasible route has been located from the head of
25 Geographic Harbor, thus negating this objection; and

26 WHEREAS the Park Service has further objected with the contention that
27 necessary road construction to connect Bristol Bay with the Pacific would
28 destroy wilderness values within the monument; and

29 WHEREAS most of the additional road necessary would traverse lava flats

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1 and lunar type landscape largely devoid of wildlife, clear waters and forest
2 cover normally associated with wilderness values; and

3 WHEREAS the National Park Service has already gouged a rough road
4 through the major portion of the route which by contrast does have all the
5 wilderness values listed above; and

6 WHEREAS this existing road starts within the confines of the monument
7 and goes yet deeper therein rather than extending to the perimeter and thus
8 allowing access to the public;

9 BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature requests the Park Service to recon-
10 sider their objections in the light of recent studies and to work in harmony
11 with the state to make the scenic wonders of the Katmai area accessible to
12 the public and thus serve its intended purpose.

13 COPIES of this Resolution shall be sent to The Honorable Stewart L.
14 Udall, Secretary, Department of the Interior; The Honorable George B.
15 Hartzog, Jr., Director, National Park Service; The Honorable Clarence F.
16 Pautzke, Commissioner, Fish and Wildlife Service; and to The Honorable
17 E.L. Bartlett and The Honorable Ernest Gruening, U.S. Senators, and The
18 Honorable Howard W. Pollock, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska
19 delegation in Congress.
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