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Referred: State Affairs
and Finance

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1 IN THE HOUSE

2 HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 35

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 SIXTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Relating to the development of the
6 Yukon River as a natural marine high-
7 way to connect a central Alaska east-
8 west highway system.

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

10 WHEREAS the Yukon River stretches 1,500 miles across central Alaska
11 from the Canadian border on the east to the Bering Sea in the west and
12 passes through great regions larger than entire states and is now unpen-
13 trated by surface transportation routes; and

14 WHEREAS the TAPS highway now crosses the Yukon creating a long-needed
15 north-south highway through interior Alaska; and

16 WHEREAS the construction of surface highway systems into new develop-
17 ment areas is both costly and restricted by the availability of federal
18 highway funds; and

19 WHEREAS a "highway west" to the Seward Peninsula and northwest Alaska
20 can be economically developed by a 300-mile Yukon River ferry connecting
21 link along the middle Yukon River between the junction of the TAPS highway
22 with the river on the east, and with the northwest highway coming from the
23 west and reaching the Yukon River near the village of Koyukuk; and

24 WHEREAS a new highway link to the east can be developed along the
25 beautiful upper Yukon River through the potentially oil-rich Kandik region;
26 and

27 WHEREAS this upper Yukon ferry can join without any new highway con-
28 struction the existing Steese Highway reaching the Yukon River from Fairbank
29 at Circle, and link with the existing Klondike Highway on the east reaching

1 the Yukon River at Dawson City; and

2 WHEREAS the upper Yukon ferry would not only expose the potentially oil-
3 rich Kandik to surface transportation, and bring back into being a tourist
4 route of pre-war fame, but would provide at little cost a link with the
5 northeast Canadian highway system;

6 BE IT RESOLVED that the Yukon River be developed as a marine highway
7 system so as to become a part of the Alaska marine highway system, and that
8 the Governor is respectfully requested to initiate plans to develop these
9 potential surface transportation systems through public investment or
10 through agreements with private developers with state participation.

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