

Introduced: 4/3/69  
Referred: State Affairs

*Wm*

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY SASSARA

2 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 54

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 SIXTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Requesting federal recognition of the  
6 Alaska Marine Highway System as part  
7 of the Federal-Aid System and federal  
8 funds for marine highway ferry con-  
9 struction.

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

11 WHEREAS the State of Alaska has established, at its own instigation and  
12 expense, a modern marine highway system connecting Alaska and the 48 contigu-  
13 ous states through the Port of Seattle; and

14 WHEREAS the Alaska Marine Highway System was devised and is operated  
15 to take the place of an intrastate and interstate highway system; and

16 WHEREAS Alaska is in a unique position because the only present land  
17 connection with the state is a 1,200-mile gravel road through a foreign  
18 country; and

19 WHEREAS, because of the geographical situation of Southeastern Alaska,  
20 there is no possibility of an overland road between it and the South 48  
21 states; and

22 WHEREAS there is a tremendous growth in commerce, trade and tourism  
23 between the South 48 states and Alaska; and

24 WHEREAS the ferries handle most of this movement in Southeast and South-  
25 central Alaska; and

26 WHEREAS Federal-Aid System funds have not been made available for the  
27 Alaska Marine Highway System even though it functions as a highway in the  
28 truest sense and it is operated to a great extent in interstate commerce; and

29 WHEREAS there is precedent for providing federal funds to Alaska for

1 the ferry system since there are other states which receive Federal-Aid  
2 System funds for the operations of their ferry systems;

3 BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the State of Alaska requests  
4 that the Alaska Marine Highway System be recognized as a part of the Federal-  
5 Aid System and eligible for Federal-Aid System funds;

6 COPIES of this Resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Richard M.  
7 Nixon, President of the United States; the Honorable John Volpe, Secretary  
8 of Transportation; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Mike  
9 Gravel, U. S. Senators, and to the Honorable Howard W. Pollock, U. S. Repre-  
10 sentative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.