

Introduced: 4/3/69  
Referred: State Affairs

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  
25 between Southeast and Southcentral 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; the Honorable Walter J. Hickel, Secretary of the Interior,  
9 and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Mike Gravel, U. S.  
10 Senators, and to the Honorable Howard W. Pollock, U. S. Representative,  
11 members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.