

Introduced: 2/18/70
Referred: Resources

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY THE RULES COMMITTEE BY REQUEST

2 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 103

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 SIXTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Relating to the proposed State of
6 Alaska access road across the Alaska
7 Peninsula.

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

9 WHEREAS the State of Alaska is presently planning the construction of
10 a road across the Alaska Peninsula which will connect Iliamna and Iniskin
11 Bay; and

12 WHEREAS the purpose of the road is to connect a ferry facility on the
13 Pacific side of the Alaska Peninsula with the Bristol Bay area; and

14 WHEREAS Iniskin Bay is by no means the best location for a ferry facility
15 because it is a second class harbor and is not ice-free, but National
16 Park Service opposition to allowing a road to pass through Katmai National
17 Monument precluded the best choice of road and harbor location; and

18 WHEREAS the Iniskin Bay - Iliamna route will require almost 200 miles
19 of road and a great number of major bridges at a construction cost of over
20 \$34,000,000, the first 22 miles of which are estimated to cost almost
21 \$500,000 per mile, and this is in addition to the extensive preparation work
22 required for the Iniskin Bay ferry terminal; and

23 WHEREAS the Iniskin Bay - Iliamna route traverses much prime big game
24 habitat as well as streams comprising the most important red salmon spawning
25 area in the world; and

26 WHEREAS, historically, big game habitat and spawning streams readily
27 accessible to highways have been seriously and permanently harmed by such
28 proximity; and

29 WHEREAS there exists an alternate route through Katmai National

1 Monument from King Salmon to either of two excellent ice-free harbors on the
2 Pacific, requiring approximately one-half the road mileage and far fewer
bridges, and costing a fraction of the amount required for the Iniskin Bay -
4 Iliamna route; and

5 WHEREAS not only is the Katmai route far less expensive in terms of
6 actual construction costs, but also in terms of potential destruction of
7 renewable resources; and

8 WHEREAS, even though there is Park Service opposition to the Katmai
9 route, the service itself has constructed 17 miles of road along the same
10 route which would be utilized in the monument for the state road; and

11 WHEREAS, other than the present 17 miles of existing road, the route
12 that the state would propose through Katmai traverses the Valley of 10,000
13 Smokes which is almost totally devoid of vegetation or wildlife habitat and
14 the streams to be crossed are silt-laden and with few exceptions have no
15 spawning whatsoever; and

16 WHEREAS it is in the best interests of Alaska and the United States
17 government, in terms of both substantial monetary savings and environmental
18 preservation, that the proposed state road across the Alaska Peninsula be
19 allowed to cross Katmai National Monument; and

20 WHEREAS this route would make accessible one of the finest tourist
21 attractions in the State of Alaska and could directly contribute significant-
22 ly to the economic well-being of Bristol Bay years prior to the estimated
23 10-year completion date of the Iniskin - Iliamna route;

24 BE IT RESOLVED by the Sixth Alaska Legislature that the Department of
25 the Interior is requested to rescind its opposition to the construction of
26 a state road through a portion of the Katmai National Monument.

27 COPIES of this Resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Richard M.
28 Nixon, President of the United States; the Honorable Walter J. Hickel,
29 Secretary of the Interior; the Honorable George B. Hartzog, Jr., Director,

1 National Park Service; the Honorable Henry M. Jackson, Chairman, Senate
2 Interior and Insular Affairs Committee; the Honorable Wayne N. Aspinall,
3 Chairman, House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee; and to the
4 Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Mike Gravel, U. S. Senators, and
5 the Honorable Howard W. Pollock, U. S. Representative, members of the
6 Alaska delegation in Congress.

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