

Introduced: 2/23/71
Referred: State Affairs

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY ORBECK, HOLM, HUBER, MCVEIGH,
E. MILLER, RANDOLPH AND WARWICK

2 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 30

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Relating to the dredging of gravel

6 from the Chena River.

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

8 WHEREAS the City of Fairbanks is in need of gravel to be utilized in
9 the improvement of city streets and public parking lots; and

10 WHEREAS the city's applications to the Corps of Engineers and the State
11 Division of Lands for a permit to dredge gravel from the Chena River have
12 been met with objections; and

13 WHEREAS these objections have been based primarily on aesthetic con-
14 siderations and on the fact that harm would come to the anadromous fish and
15 aquatic life in the river; and

16 WHEREAS the actual facts are that anadromous fish migrate up the Chena
17 River in extremely small numbers and the river is not an important anadromous
18 fish spawning stream; and

19 WHEREAS a report by the Federal Water Quality Administration states
20 that the population of grayling is actually greater in the lower polluted
21 reaches of the river than in the higher unpolluted reaches; and

22 WHEREAS from information supplied by the Department of Fish and Game it
23 would appear that pollution from sewage as well as gravel bailing has not
24 deterred the growth and propagation of grayling in the Chena River and this
25 information was gathered in 1968 at a time when gravel was being removed
26 from the river; and

27 WHEREAS the only alternative available to the city if the requested
28 permit is not issued would be to purchase gravel from local pits at a cost
29 to the city of five times the cost of dredging gravel; and

1 WHEREAS it is vital that the city obtain the needed gravel, the alterna-
2 tive being to cancel its 1971 paving program;

3 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the Corps of Engi-
4 neers and the State Division of Lands are urged to immediately issue the
5 necessary permits to the City of Fairbanks which would enable the city to
6 dredge gravel from the Chena River.

7 COPIES of this Resolution shall be sent to Lieutenant General F. J.
8 Clarke, Chief of Engineers, United States Army; the Honorable David J.
9 Nicholls, Chief, Operations Branch, Alaska District Corps of Engineers;
10 and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Mike Gravel, U. S.
11 Senators, and the Honorable Nick Begich, U. S. Representative, members of
12 the Alaska delegation in Congress.