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1 IN THE HOUSE

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2 HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 55

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 EIGHTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Relating to the construction of the
6 Copper River Highway and the Chitina-
7 McCarthy Highway.

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

9 WHEREAS the completion of the Copper River and Northwest Railway in the
10 early 1900's provided land transportation between the communities of Cordova,
11 Chitina, and McCarthy; and

12 WHEREAS since the closure of the Copper River and Northwest Railway in
13 1939 the residents of these communities have had to rely on personal land
14 transportation over the railway roadbed; and

15 WHEREAS the various responsible road agencies have periodically main-
16 tained all or portions of the subject highways for public use since closure
17 of the railway; and

18 WHEREAS the United States of America is in need of developing mineral
19 resources within the country to lessen dependence on foreign mineral sources;
20 and the State of Alaska and particularly the areas that could be served by
21 the proposed highways are rich in mineral resources; and

22 WHEREAS one of the major restraints to development of these mineral
23 resources is lack of an adequate land transportation system; and present
24 transportation means for seafood products from Cordova is more costly and
25 time consuming than a land transportation route via the subject and existing
26 highways; and

27 WHEREAS tourism is one of the major sources of economic growth in the
28 State of Alaska, and modern designed roadways can be built to provide motor
29 vehicle access to the scenic areas surrounding Cordova, Chitina and McCarthy

1 with little or no damage to the scenic beauty; and

2 WHEREAS modern mining methods likewise permit the extraction of minerals
3 without despoiling the natural surroundings, and land use controls by the
4 United States Government and the State of Alaska will limit and control any
5 man-made development in the area in order to maintain an optimum balance
6 between development and nature;

7 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the reconstruction
8 of the Copper River Highway between Cordova and the Richardson Highway and
9 the Chitina-McCarthy Highway in its entirety is of vital importance to the
10 social and economic well-being of the State of Alaska; and be it

11 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor is respectfully requested to direct
12 the Department of Highways to reconstruct the Copper River Highway between
13 Cordova and the Richardson Highway and the Chitina-McCarthy Highway in its
14 entirety.

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