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Referred: State Affairs

1 IN THE SENATE

BY HARRIS, LEWIS AND YOUNG

2 SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 29 *AM*

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 residents of these communities and the surrounding areas  
16 have the right to safe, efficient trafficways on which to operate their  
17 personal land vehicles commensurate with trafficways developed for other  
18 citizens of the State of Alaska; and

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

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

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

1 highways; and

2 WHEREAS tourism is one of the major sources of economic growth in the  
3 State of Alaska, and modern designed roadways can be built to provide motor  
4 vehicle access to the scenic areas surrounding Cordova, Chitina and McCarthy  
5 with little or no damage to the scenic beauty; and

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

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

15 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor is respectfully requested to direct  
16 the Department of Highways to reconstruct the Copper River Highway between  
17 Cordova and the Richardson Highway and the Chitina-McCarthy Highway in its  
18 entirety; and be it

19 FURTHER RESOLVED that the reconstruction of these two roads be of the  
20 highest priority during the 1973 construction season.