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Referred: State Affairs

1 IN THE SENATE

BY HARRIS, LEWIS AND YOUNG

2 *HCS* SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 29

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

17 FURTHER RESOLVED that the reconstruction of this road be of the highest
18 priority during the 1973 construction season.