

Original sponsors: Harris, Lewis
and Young

Offered: 3/12/73
Referred: Finance

1 IN THE SENATE BY THE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
2 HOUSE CS FOR 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 various responsible road agencies have periodically main-
15 tained all or portions of the subject highways for public use since closure
16 of the railway; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

14 FURTHER RESOLVED that the reconstruction of this road be a high priority.
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