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Referred: State Affairs

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AND KELLY

1 IN THE HOUSE

2 HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 19

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 TENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Relating to the upgrading and maintenance  
6 of the South Fork Road in Eagle River.

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

8 WHEREAS the South Fork Road in Eagle River is only partially maintained  
9 by the state Department of Highways; and

10 WHEREAS there are approximately 100 residential lots sold to individual  
11 buyers on that portion of the road not maintained by the state; and

12 WHEREAS there are approximately 25 school age children living on that  
13 stretch of road with estimated projections for 50 children within the next  
14 two years and 100 children within the next five years; and

15 WHEREAS the Greater Anchorage Area School District refuses to provide  
16 bus transportation on that portion of the road because of the lack of repair;  
17 and

18 WHEREAS in the winter this area is dark, very hazardous, and often en-  
19 dures temperatures below minus 20°; and

20 WHEREAS there is a considerable amount of traffic along this stretch of  
21 road; and

22 WHEREAS, the absence of bus transportation makes it necessary for the  
23 children who live along this part of the road to brave these hazards by snow  
24 machine, motorcycle, foot, or as best they can in order to traverse the  
25 distance between their homes and the bus stop; and

26 WHEREAS the state does have a responsibility to provide transportation  
27 for school children; and

28 WHEREAS the South Fork Road is one of only three roads leading to  
29 Chugach State Park and South Fork Valley; and

1 WHEREAS, because of potential liability, the road must be closed to the  
2 public, thus depriving citizens and park rangers of access to a large portion  
3 of the park; and

4 WHEREAS utility companies have built power and telephone lines along the  
5 road; and

6 WHEREAS the Commissioner of Highways has refused to upgrade and maintain  
7 this portion of the road; and

8 WHEREAS the estimated total cost for bringing that portion of the road  
9 up to state standards is only \$150,000; and

10 WHEREAS \$150,000 is a small price to pay to safeguard the lives and limbs  
11 of the children and other residents using the road, particularly when com-  
12 pared with the Department of Highways' total budget;

13 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that it respectfully  
14 requests the Governor to direct the Department of Highways to undertake as a  
15 high priority the upgrading and maintenance of the entire length of the South  
16 Fork Road in Eagle River.

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