

Introduced: 3/15/79
Referred: Commerce

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY CARNEY

2 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 33

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Relating to a railroad link from
6 Fairbanks to the contiguous 48 states
7 through Canada.

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

9 WHEREAS the State of Alaska presently possesses no railroad link to the
10 contiguous 48 states; and

11 WHEREAS the federal government in 1914, by authorizing up to 1,000 miles
12 of construction for the Alaska Railroad, recognized the value of an adequate
13 rail system to assure that Alaska would realize the value of its vast renew-
14 able and nonrenewable resources; and

15 WHEREAS only 544 miles of this railroad construction have been completed;
16 and

17 WHEREAS Alaska will have appropriated and committed by the end of fiscal
18 year 1979 \$910,000 to examine the feasibility of an extension of the Alaska
19 Railroad and delineate a corridor from Fairbanks through Delta to the
20 Canadian border; and

21 WHEREAS the Canadian government has formally indicated its interest in
22 the construction of a trans-continental railroad link to the Alaska border;
23 and

24 WHEREAS it is virtually certain that the enormous energy, mineral,
25 agricultural and timber resources of Alaska will remain unavailable to the
26 rest of the United States and Canada without a high-volume, low-cost trans-
27 portation link;

28 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the Alaska congres-
29 sional delegation is requested to include access along the defined railroad

1 corridor from Fairbanks to the Canadian border as one of Alaska's minimum
2 requirements in negotiations on the Alaska lands issue; and be it

3 FURTHER RESOLVED that a bi-national task force jointly funded by the
4 State of Alaska, the Canadian government, and the United States government be
5 established to conduct a feasibility study and cost-benefit analysis of a
6 trans-continental railroad link from the contiguous 48 states through Canada
7 to Alaska.

8 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Cyrus Vance,
9 U. S. Secretary of State; the Honorable Brock Adams, U. S. Secretary of
10 Transportation; the Honorable Otto Lang, Minister of the Department of
11 Transportation, Federal Government of Canada; the Honorable William Bennett,
12 Premier of the Province of British Columbia, Canada; the Honorable Arthur
13 Pearson, Commissioner of the Yukon Territory, Canada; the Honorable Clarence
14 J. Roth, Deputy Minister of Transportation Planning and Service for the
15 Province of Alberta, Canada; Mr. W. L. Dorcy, General Manager of the Alaska
16 Railroad; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Mike Gravel,
17 U. S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U. S. Representative, members of
18 the Alaska delegation in Congress.

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