

Introduced: 4/23/80
Referred: Rules

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY DUNCAN AND MILLER

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SPONSOR SUBSTITUTE FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 66

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

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ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5

Relating to the upgrading of the

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White Pass & Yukon Route.

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

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WHEREAS the White Pass & Yukon Route is a narrow gauge railroad which

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has, since the nineteenth century, linked Skagway to Whitehorse, Yukon Terri-

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tory, Canada; and

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WHEREAS the White Pass & Yukon Route is of world-wide historical in-

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terest and is in fact one of the few narrow gauge railroads still in exis-

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tence; and

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WHEREAS the White Pass & Yukon Route is one of North America's premier

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tourist attractions and is heavily used, contributing substantially to the

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economies of both Canada and the United States; and

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WHEREAS the White Pass & Yukon Route provides direct employment for 159

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Alaskans in Skagway and 54 Canadians in Whitehorse as well as many other jobs

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in indirect employment in both cities; and

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WHEREAS the value of the payroll totals more than five and one-half

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million dollars in Skagway and an even higher amount in Whitehorse in direct

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payment to employees alone; and

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WHEREAS the White Pass & Yukon Route has provided in the past, and could

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be called upon to provide in the future, a vital emergency link during times

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of national emergency; and

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WHEREAS the White Pass & Yukon Route has never received a penny of

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subsidy from either of the national governments whose peoples it serves; and

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WHEREAS, although facing severe economic difficulties at the present

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time, the railroad is not requesting a subsidy; and

1 WHEREAS the Canadian Transport Commission has developed a feasible plan
2 of well-secured loans from the American and Canadian governments, designed to
3 strengthen and stabilize the company;

4 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the Canadian govern-
5 ment is respectfully urged to provide a \$10,000,000 no-interest loan to the
6 White Pass & Yukon Route to be used to upgrade the railroad, in cooperation
7 with the United States government, as was recently proposed by the Canadian
8 Transport Commission; and be it

9 FURTHER RESOLVED that the original narrow gauge railbed be left in place
10 and preserved for its historic value.

11 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Right Honorable Pierre
12 Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada; the Honorable Gilles Lamontagne, Minister
13 of National Defence; the Honorable Jean-Luc Pepin, Minister of Transport; the
14 Honorable John Munro, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development;
15 the Honorable W. R. Bennett, Premier of the Province of British Columbia, and
16 the Honorable Eric Nielson, Commissioner of the Yukon Territory.

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