

Introduced: 4/23/80
Referred: Rules

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY DUNCAN AND MILLER

2 SPONSOR SUBSTITUTE FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 66 am

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Relating to the upgrading of the
6 White Pass & Yukon Route.

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

8 WHEREAS the White Pass & Yukon Route is a narrow gauge railroad which
9 has, since the nineteenth century, linked Skagway to Whitehorse, Yukon Terri-
10 tory, Canada; and

11 WHEREAS the White Pass & Yukon Route is of world-wide historical in-
12 terest and is in fact one of the few narrow gauge railroads still in exis-
13 tence; and

14 WHEREAS the White Pass & Yukon Route is one of North America's premier
15 tourist attractions and is heavily used, contributing substantially to the
16 economies of both Canada and the United States; and

17 WHEREAS the White Pass & Yukon Route provides direct employment for 159
18 Alaskans in Skagway and 54 Canadians in Whitehorse as well as many other jobs
19 in indirect employment in both cities; and

20 WHEREAS the value of the payroll totals more than five and one-half
21 million dollars in Skagway and an even higher amount in Whitehorse; and

22 WHEREAS the White Pass & Yukon Route has provided in the past, and could
23 be called upon to provide in the future, a vital emergency link during times
24 of national emergency; and

25 WHEREAS the White Pass & Yukon Route has never received a penny of
26 subsidy from either of the national governments whose peoples it serves; and

27 WHEREAS, although facing severe economic difficulties at the present
28 time, the railroad is not requesting a subsidy; and

29 WHEREAS the Canadian Transport Commission has developed a feasible plan

1 of well-secured loans from the American and Canadian governments, designed to
2 strengthen and stabilize the company;

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

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

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