

Original sponsors: Duncan and Miller

Offered: 5/20/80

1 IN THE HOUSE BY THE RULES COMMITTEE

2 SENATE CS FOR SPONSOR SUBSTITUTE FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 66

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 present financial condition of the White Pass & Yukon

1 Corporation, Ltd., has been caused in part by competition with a new highway
2 which the State of Alaska wanted and constructed; and

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

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

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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