

Introduced: 4/22/80
Referred: Resources

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE (for the
Special Agriculture Committee

2 HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 19

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Relating to the construction of the
6 Goose Bay to Point MacKenzie Road.

7 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

8 WHEREAS there are residents of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough living in
9 the Point MacKenzie area who are traveling on substandard roads at least five
10 months out of the year with great hardship; and

11 WHEREAS it will be impossible to proceed with the Point MacKenzie agri-
12 cultural project, as recommended by the Rural Development Council and ap-
13 proved by the Alaska Agricultural Action Council, which the legislature is
14 now considering without an adequate road between Goose Bay and Point
15 MacKenzie; and

16 WHEREAS development of the industrial, commercial and residential po-
17 tential of the Point MacKenzie area cannot occur until road access to that
18 area from Goose Bay is provided; and

19 WHEREAS the Matanuska-Susitna Borough is presently undertaking construc-
20 tion of a 12-mile road between Goose Bay and Point MacKenzie with financial
21 assistance from the state; and

22 WHEREAS, on October 26, 1979, the United States Army Corps of Engineers
23 informed the Matanuska-Susitna Borough that a federal wetlands permit was
24 necessary before further construction of the Goose Bay to Point MacKenzie
25 road could continue and advised the borough that continued construction
26 without a federal permit would subject the borough, its agents and employees
27 to the possible imposition of civil and criminal sanctions; and

28 WHEREAS, on January 16, 1980, the United States Army Corps of Engineers
29 informed the Matanuska-Susitna Borough that within 30 to 45 days the Army

1 Corps of Engineers would complete review and make recommendations concerning
2 alleged violation of federal wetlands legislation resulting from construction
3 of the Goose Bay to Point MacKenzie road, and informed the borough that final
4 action on a required federal wetlands permit would be taken 90 to 120 days
5 following resolution of the alleged violation; and

6 WHEREAS, as of April 10, 1980, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough had not
7 been informed of a final determination by the United States Army Corps of
8 Engineers on the alleged violation of federal wetlands legislation and had
9 not been notified of any final action on the borough's application for issu-
10 ance of a federal wetlands permit despite assurances that the application
11 would be dealt with in an expeditious manner and action would be completed
12 before commencement of the 1980 summer construction season; and

13 WHEREAS the House of Representatives is mindful of the deteriorating
14 economic situation within the Matanuska-Susitna Borough and the need for
15 resumption of construction of the Goose Bay to Point MacKenzie road in order
16 to promote responsible economic development of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough;
17 and

18 WHEREAS the House of Representatives finds that all citizens of the
19 state as well as the residents of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, will benefit
20 through responsible economic development of the Point MacKenzie area;

21 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State House of Representatives requests
22 the United States Army Corps of Engineers to expedite and complete review of
23 alleged violation of federal wetlands legislation occurring in the Goose Bay
24 to Point MacKenzie area and to immediately advise the Matanuska-Susitna
25 Borough and other affected parties of any corrective action required; and be
26 it

27 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State House of Representatives urges
28 the United States Army Corps of Engineers to process, review and issue all
29 federal environmental and wetlands permits necessary before completion of the

1 Goose Bay to Point MacKenzie road which are consistent with responsible
2 economic development of the Point MacKenzie area and the need to protect,
3 preserve and enhance the environment and wildlife habitat of that area.

4 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to Lt. General John W. Morris,
5 Chief of Engineers, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and to the Honorable Ted
6 Stevens and the Honorable Mike Gravel, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don
7 Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.

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