

Introduced: 3/15/79  
Referred: Resources and  
Labor & Management

1 IN THE SENATE

BY RODEY AND KERTTULA

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 28

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

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ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5

Relating to a railroad link from

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Fairbanks to the contiguous 48 states

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through Canada.

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

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WHEREAS the State of Alaska presently possesses no railroad link to the

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contiguous 48 states; and

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WHEREAS the federal government in 1914, by authorizing up to 1,000 miles

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of construction for the Alaska Railroad, recognized the value of an adequate

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rail system to assure that Alaska would realize the value of its vast renew-

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able and nonrenewable resources; and

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

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and

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WHEREAS Alaska will have appropriated and committed by the end of fiscal

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year 1979 \$910,000 to examine the feasibility of an extension of the Alaska

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Railroad and delineate a corridor from Fairbanks through Delta to the

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Canadian border; and

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WHEREAS the Canadian government has formally indicated its interest in

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the construction of a trans-continental railroad link to the Alaska border;

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and

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WHEREAS it is virtually certain that the enormous energy, mineral,

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agricultural and timber resources of Alaska will remain unavailable to the

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rest of the United States and Canada without a high-volume, low-cost trans-

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portation link;

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BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the Alaska congress-

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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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