

C O R R E C T I O N

CS FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 90 (RR & COAL)

Please discard all copies of this Committee Substitute  
and retain this corrected version.

Original sponsors: Bettisworth, Buchholdt,  
Carney, et al

Offered: 3/12/82  
Referred: Rules

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON  
RAILROADS AND COAL DEVELOPMENT

2 CS FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 90 (RR & Coal)

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 TWELFTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Relating to the request for rights-of-  
6 way corridors for the Alaska Rail-  
7 road.

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

9 WHEREAS the Alaska Railroad is a viable, growing business enterprise  
10 that affects many of the citizens of the State of Alaska by providing vital  
11 transportation services and has the potential of providing greatly expanded  
12 service; and

13 WHEREAS the Alaska Railroad has in its enabling Act, The Alaska Railroad  
14 Act (43 U.S.C. 975 - 975(g)), authority to extend its track up to 1,000 miles  
15 in length; and

16 WHEREAS the State of Alaska and its citizens would benefit by extension  
17 of the Alaska Railroad to

18 (1) the Kenai-Soldotna area and the Nikishka industrial development  
19 area from the existing railway near Moose Pass;

20 (2) the Yukon River in the vicinity of Tanana from the existing  
21 railway near Nenana;

22 (3) the Ambler mining area via an access corridor extending from  
23 the Nenana-Tanana extension through the communities of Alatna and Kobuk;

24 (4) the Canadian border from the vicinity of Eielson as delineated  
25 in Route Selection Project X20089 prepared by the State of Alaska Department  
26 of Transportation and Public Facilities; and

27 (5) the tidewater access at Valdez from the existing railway in  
28 Fairbanks following the Richardson Highway; and

29 WHEREAS the extension of railroad service to the areas set out above is

1 dependent upon acquisition by the Alaska Railroad of the necessary rights-of-  
2 way over federal land; and

3 WHEREAS the acquisition of the necessary rights-of-way over federal land  
4 is a vital concern of the Alaska State Legislature in evaluating the potential  
5 transfer of the Alaska Railroad ownership from the federal government to the  
6 State of Alaska because of the impact of right-of-way availability on the  
7 railroad's service capability and financial ability to maximize its gross  
8 revenue and profit; and

9 WHEREAS sec. 501(a) of P.L. 94-579 of October 21, 1976, authorizes the  
10 establishment of rights-of-way by the Secretary of the Interior over public  
11 domain land; and

12 WHEREAS the Secretary of Transportation is responsible for overseeing  
13 the functions of the Federal Railroad Administration;

14 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests  
15 the Secretary of Transportation to request the Secretary of the Interior to  
16 create rights-of-way for the construction of extensions of the Alaska Rail-  
17 road through the lands of the United States in the State of Alaska as set out  
18 above along routes that would

19 (1) be located so that they can meet the grade and alignment  
20 standards that are commensurate with the transcontinental rail system stan-  
21 dards;

22 (2) be located on the best available foundations and in areas  
23 where construction materials are readily available;

24 (3) avoid whenever possible potentially hazardous situations such  
25 as highway grade crossings;

26 (4) be placed so that they will serve local communities and enhance  
27 local development plans;

28 (5) reflect an awareness of environmentally sensitive areas and  
29 issues;

1 (6) be 300 feet wide;

2 (7) minimize construction costs.

3 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Ronald Reagan,  
4 President of the United States; the Honorable Drew Lewis, Secretary of Trans-  
5 portation; the Honorable James G. Watt, Secretary of the Interior; the Honor-  
6 able Robert W. Blanchette, Administrator of the Federal Railroad Administra-  
7 tion; the Honorable Robert Burford, Director-Designate of the Bureau of Land  
8 Management; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank  
9 Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative,  
10 members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.

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