

Introduced: 1/30/81
Referred: Transportation

1 IN THE SENATE

BY FERGUSON

2 SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 6 am H

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 6 am H

5 Relating to construction of a deep
6 water port facility in Nome.

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

8 WHEREAS it is essential to the development of the City of Nome that a
9 deep water port facility be constructed to eliminate exorbitant fees for the
10 transportation of resources and goods; and

11 WHEREAS the City of Nome is in the process of constructing a port
12 facility; and

13 WHEREAS in order to build the port facility a causeway must be con-
14 structed extending outward from the shoreline 3,600 feet; and

15 WHEREAS a permit from the United States Corps of Engineers must be
16 obtained before the causeway can be constructed; and

17 WHEREAS the United States Bureau of Land Management has lodged an
18 objection with the United States Corps of Engineers to granting a permit for
19 the causeway unless the state waives claim to the additional submerged land
20 which would result from constructing the causeway; and

21 WHEREAS the authority of the Corps of Engineers to deny such a permit
22 because of such an objection by the Bureau of Land Management is an issue in
23 the litigation between the state and the United States over the ownership of
24 submerged lands in the Beaufort Sea; and

25 WHEREAS the Reagan administration, and particularly Secretary of
26 Interior Watt, have indicated a willingness to review all pending disputes
27 with the states in an effort to resolve them without litigation; and

28 WHEREAS failure to resolve the dispute in this case would result in
29 litigation which would be costly and unnecessary for both the state and

1 Nome; and

2 WHEREAS the residents of the Nome area will continue to pay exorbitant
3 fees for transportation of goods if construction of the deep water port
4 facility is delayed; and

5 WHEREAS failure to complete construction of the deep water port would
6 result in the loss of economic opportunity, a delay in developing natural
7 resources, and loss of jobs in an area with unemployment as high as 80
8 percent;

9 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the Governor is
10 respectfully requested to direct the Department of Natural Resources and the
11 Department of Law immediately to begin negotiations with the Reagan
12 Administration, and particularly the Department of Interior, to get the
13 Bureau of Land Management to lift its objection to the United States Corps
14 of Engineers granting the permit for constructing the causeway so that the
15 deep water port facility in Nome can be constructed.

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