

1 IN THE SENATE

BY HOHMAN BY REQUEST

2 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 18

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 TWELFTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Requesting the President to direct
6 the creation of a utility corridor
7 for the extension of the Alaska
8 Railroad to the Canadian border.

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

10 WHEREAS it is essential that transportation links be developed if
11 Alaska, and especially interior Alaska, is ever to attain its full potential;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, traditionally, railroad systems have been in the forefront of
14 the development of new territories, no matter where they have existed in the
15 world; and

16 WHEREAS the Yukon Territory and British Columbia are in the same
17 position as Alaska in that transportation systems are needed to aid further
18 development; and

19 WHEREAS it would seem logical and proper that the Alaska Railroad
20 should connect with the Canadian railway system at some strategically
21 located point; and

22 WHEREAS such a transportation linkup would be of vast benefit to
23 Alaska, the United States, and Canada; and

24 WHEREAS members of Canadian governments have expressed a keen desire
25 for serious talks concerning an international rail connection; and

26 WHEREAS President Reagan spoke many times during his campaign of using
27 the vast storehouse of vital energy resources in Alaska; and

28 WHEREAS the Alaska Railroad has in its enabling Act, The Alaska Rail-
29 road Act (43 U.S.C. 975 - 975(g)) authority to extend its track up to 1,000

1 miles in length; and

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

5 WHEREAS the President, under authority granted to him by the Alaska
6 Railroad Act of 1914, could, by a mere stroke of his pen, eliminate a vast
7 amount of red tape, delay, and excessive cost to government;

8 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests
9 the President of the United States to direct the Secretary of the Interior
10 to declare the route described in Alaska Department of Transportation and
11 Public Facilities Project X20089 from Eielson Air Force Base to the Canadian
12 border a railroad utility corridor.

13 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Ronald Reagan,
14 President of the United States; the Honorable James G. Watts, Secretary of
15 the Interior; the Honorable Drew Lewis, Secretary of Transportation; the
16 Honorable Robert Burford, Director-Designate of the Bureau of Land Manage-
17 ment; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski,
18 U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of
19 the Alaska delegation in Congress.
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