

1 IN THE SENATE BY THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

2 CS FOR SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 69 (Transportation) am

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 TWELFTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Relating to conditions for transfer  
6 of the Alaska Railroad.

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

8 WHEREAS the federal government is considering disposal of the Alaska  
9 Railroad; and

10 WHEREAS the Reagan administration has given its unofficial support to  
11 the proposal; and

12 WHEREAS the Federal Railroad Administration and the United States Office  
13 of Management and Budget have indicated that they wish to have the State of  
14 Alaska take over the Alaska Railroad; and

15 WHEREAS the Alaska State Legislature and the administration have  
16 expressed interest in transfer of ownership of the Alaska Railroad; and

17 WHEREAS it is apparent that several factors must be weighed by the state  
18 in its decision to effect a transfer because the factors will significantly  
19 impact the economic viability and effective operation by the state of the  
20 Alaska Railroad should ownership be transferred;

21 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature establishes as condi-  
22 tions of transfer of ownership of the Alaska Railroad

23 (1) receipt of clear title to all railroad properties required for  
24 the continuing conduct of its business and the preservation of its economic  
25 viability;

26 (2) receipt from the Secretary of the Interior of assurances that  
27 the state has the ability to expand or extend existing right-of-way over  
28 non-environmentally impacted federal land with an expedited analysis of  
29 relevant environmental and economic considerations and an expedited decision

1 based on that analysis;

2 (3) the stipulation that the transfer may not be subject to any  
3 unwarranted conditions of reversion;

4 (4) the stipulation that the federal government may not impose or  
5 enforce, except for provisions that are applied generally and uniformly to  
6 operating railroads in the nation, any statute, regulation, or policy that  
7 would impair the ability of the State of Alaska to conduct the business of  
8 the Alaska Railroad as a viable entity;

9 (5) assurance that the state will take measures to maintain the  
10 employment status and entitlements of the existing employees for a period of  
11 two years from the date of the transfer.

12 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable James G. Watt,  
13 Secretary of the Interior; the Honorable Drew Lewis, Secretary of Transporta-  
14 tion; the Honorable Robert Blanchette, Administrator of the Federal Railroad  
15 Administration; the Honorable Robert Burford, Director-Designate of the  
16 Bureau of Land Management; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable  
17 Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representa-  
18 tive, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.