

1 IN THE SENATE

BY THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

2 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 76

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 TWELFTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Relating to the request for a right-
6 of-way corridor from Cantwell to the
7 Devil's Canyon dam site for the
8 Alaska Railroad.

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

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

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

17 WHEREAS the State of Alaska and its citizens would benefit by extension
18 of the Alaska Railroad from Cantwell to the Devil's Canyon dam site to
19 facilitate construction of the proposed Susitna Dam and to accomodate sub-
20 sequent transportation requirements; and

21 WHEREAS the extension of service from Cantwell to the Devil's Canyon dam
22 site is dependent upon acquisition by the Alaska Railroad of the necessary
23 right-of-way over federal land; and

24 WHEREAS the acquisition of the necessary right-of-way over federal land
25 is a vital concern of the Alaska State Legislature in evaluating the potential
26 transfer of the Alaska Railroad ownership from the federal government to the
27 State of Alaska because of the impact of right-of-way availability on the
28 railroad's service capability and financial ability to maximize its gross
29 revenue and profit; and

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

4 WHEREAS the Secretary of Transportation is responsible for overseeing
5 the functions of the Federal Railroad Administration;

6 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests
7 the Secretary of Transportation to request the Secretary of the Interior to
8 create a right-of-way for the construction of an extension of the Alaska
9 Railroad through the lands of the United States in the State of Alaska
10 extending from Cantwell to the Devil's Canyon dam site along a route that
11 would

12 (1) be located so that it can meet the grade and alignment
13 standards that are commensurate with the transcontinental rail system
14 standards;

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

17 (3) avoid whenever possible potentially hazardous situations such
18 as highway grade crossings;

19 (4) be placed so that it will serve local communities and enhance
20 local development plans;

21 (5) reflect an awareness of environmentally sensitive areas and
22 issues;

23 (6) be 300 feet wide;

24 (7) minimize construction costs.

25 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Ronald Reagan,
26 President of the United States; the Honorable Drew Lewis, Secretary of Trans-
27 portation; the Honorable James G. Watt, Secretary of the Interior; the
28 Honorable Robert W. Blanchette, Administrator of the Federal Railroad
29 Administration; the Honorable Robert Burford, Director-Designate of the

1 Bureau of Land Management; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable
2 Frank Murkowski, U. S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U. S. Repre-
3 sentative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.

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