

Introduced: 2/16/82
Referred: Transportation

1 IN THE SENATE

BY THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 76 am H

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

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TWELFTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

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Relating to the request for a right-

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of-way corridor to the Devil's Canyon

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dam site for the Alaska Railroad.

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

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WHEREAS the Alaska Railroad is a viable, growing business enterprise

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that affects many of the citizens of the State of Alaska by providing vital

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transportation services and has the potential of providing greatly expanded

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service; and

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WHEREAS the Alaska Railroad has in its enabling Act, The Alaska Railroad

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Act (43 U.S.C. 975 - 975(g)), authority to extend its track up to 1,000 miles

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in length; and

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WHEREAS the State of Alaska and its citizens would benefit by extension

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of the Alaska Railroad to the Devil's Canyon dam site to facilitate construc-

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tion of the proposed Susitna Dam and to accommodate subsequent transportation

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requirements; and

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WHEREAS the extension of service to the Devil's Canyon dam site is

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dependent upon acquisition by the Alaska Railroad of the necessary right-

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of-way over federal land; and

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WHEREAS the acquisition of the necessary right-of-way over federal land

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is a vital concern of the Alaska State Legislature in evaluating the

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potential transfer of the Alaska Railroad ownership from the federal

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government to the State of Alaska because of the impact of right-of-way

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availability on the railroad's service capability and financial ability to

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maximize its gross revenue and profit; and

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WHEREAS sec. 501(a) of P.L. 94-579 of October 21, 1976, authorizes the

1 establishment of rights-of-way by the Secretary of the Interior over public
2 domain land; and

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

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

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

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

15 (3) avoid whenever possible potentially hazardous situations such
16 as highway grade crossings;

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

19 (5) reflect an awareness of environmentally sensitive areas and
20 issues;

21 (6) be 300 feet wide;

22 (7) minimize construction costs.

23 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Ronald Reagan,
24 President of the United States; the Honorable Drew Lewis, Secretary of Trans-
25 portation; the Honorable James G. Watt, Secretary of the Interior; the
26 Honorable Robert W. Blanchette, Administrator of the Federal Railroad
27 Administration; the Honorable Robert Burford, Director-Designate of the
28 Bureau of Land Management; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable
29 Frank Murkowski, U. S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U. S. Repre-

1 representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.

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