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Referred: Resources, Transportation  
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1 IN THE HOUSE

BY LINDAUER

2

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 18

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5

Relating to the provision of right-of-

6

way corridors for the Alaska Railroad

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and oil and gas pipelines.

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

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

13 WHEREAS the State of Alaska and its citizens would benefit by exten-  
14 sion of the Alaska Railroad to

15 (1) the Yukon River;

16 (2) the Canadian border;

17 (3) the Beluga coal fields;

18 (4) the Ambler mining district; and

19 (5) any other area that the commissioner of Transportation and  
20 Public Facilities designates; and

21 WHEREAS the extension of railroad service to the areas set out above  
22 is dependent upon acquisition of the necessary right-of-way over private  
23 and federal land; and

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

4        WHEREAS it is advantageous to the State of Alaska to allow construc-  
5 tion of oil and gas pipelines within the rights-of-way acquired for rail-  
6 road corridors; and

7        WHEREAS the State of Alaska should proceed directly to acquire rights-  
8 of-way as set out above and construct rail lines to be leased to the Alaska  
9 Railroad until such time that the Alaska Railroad may be transferred to the  
10 state;

11        BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests  
12 the Governor to direct the Attorney General and Commissioner of Transporta-  
13 tion and Public Facilities to take all necessary steps to acquire rights-  
14 of-way for the construction of extensions of the Alaska Railroad through  
15 privately-owned land and the lands of the United States in the State of  
16 Alaska as set out above, to initiate such construction and negotiate with  
17 the Alaska Railroad for use of the rail lines extended through the acquired  
18 rights-of-way, and to provide for the use of portions of the rights-of-way  
19 for oil and gas pipelines.