

Introduced: 2/20/85
Referred: Transportation

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY SZYMANSKI

2

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 9

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

FOURTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5

Relating to the Whittier-Shotgun Cove

6

Access.

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

8 WHEREAS Whittier is becoming an important destination for tourists
9 visiting Alaska, as shown by the increase of tour ships stopping at Whit-
10 tier and of recreational businesses operating out of Whittier; and

11 WHEREAS Whittier is also growing in recreational importance to many
12 Alaska residents who travel to Whittier each summer for water-related
13 recreation, and who depend for this purpose upon access to Whittier; and

14 WHEREAS demand for Whittier harbor berths by recreational boaters far
15 exceeds the available harbor space; and

16 WHEREAS the Thirteenth Alaska State Legislature created the Alaska
17 Marine Park system to protect areas within Prince William Sound for public
18 recreation; and

19 WHEREAS the planned disposal of municipal land between Whittier and
20 Shotgun Cove for community expansion and recreation will increase the
21 interest in the Whittier area for recreational homes or permanent resi-
22 dences; and

23 WHEREAS in 1984, over 200,000 persons visited Whittier, including
24 travelers on the Alaska marine highway system; and

25 WHEREAS the summer shuttle service between Portage and Whittier during
26 the summer of 1984 was too infrequent to meet the needs of Anchorage visi-
27 tors to Whittier; and

28 WHEREAS the Alaska Railroad has been acquired by the state, and trans-
29 portation planning can go forward at the state level on a comprehensive

1 basis; and

2 WHEREAS the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities is
3 examining alternatives for improving access to Whittier;

4 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature commends the Depart-
5 ment of Transportation and Public Facilities for its investigation of ways
6 to improve transportation to Whittier, including the possibility of paving
7 one or both of the railroad tunnels between Portage and Whittier, and of
8 increasing shuttle service by the Alaska Railroad; and be it

9 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature urges the Depart-
10 ment of Transportation and Public Facilities to establish as a priority the
11 planning of improved access to Whittier and between Whittier and Shotgun
12 Cove so that the Fourteenth Alaska State Legislature can consider the
13 department's recommendations and take action on this matter; and be it

14 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature requests that the
15 Alaska Railroad Corporation initiate increased summer shuttle service
16 between Portage and Whittier until the state makes a permanent decision on
17 this access problem.