

Introduced: 4/29/85
Referred: Transportation

1 IN THE SENATE

BY THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

2

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 22

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

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FOURTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5

Relating to an alternative road system

6

in Denali National Park.

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

8 WHEREAS Mt. McKinley is by far the state's greatest visitor attrac-
9 tion; and

10 WHEREAS the volume of visitor traffic into Denali National Park has
11 increased by 10 percent each year; and

12 WHEREAS visitors are limited in the amount of time they are able to
13 stay in the park due to severely restricted travel on the existing park
14 road, and consequently more than half of all visitors come away from the
15 park disappointed because they have been unable to actually see the moun-
16 tain; and

17 WHEREAS the increasing volume of traffic on the existing park road of
18 visitors wanting to view the mountain has caused wildlife in the area to
19 tend to avoid the road corridor, thereby degrading the experience sought by
20 wildlife admirers; and

21 WHEREAS the existing park road would better serve the public if
22 utilized strictly for wildlife touring; and

23 WHEREAS mining in the Kantishna District has played an important
24 historic role in the settlement of the Interior; and

25 WHEREAS the use by miners of heavy trucks on the existing park road to
26 get into and out of the Kantishna area is presently restricted, is detri-
27 mental to the road, and increases the danger to the public traveling on the
28 road; and

29 WHEREAS there exist three alternate routes that could connect the

1 Kantishna area and Wonder Lake to the Parks Highway north of the park
2 entrance; and

3 WHEREAS each of these three routes - the Stampede Trail, the sled
4 trail from Rex, and the old mail route up the Kantishna River from the
5 Totchaket Resource Area - would qualify under RS 2477 (43 U.S.C. 932) as a
6 state highway right-of-way; and

7 WHEREAS the development and construction by the state of an alternate
8 route to the back of the park would relieve many of the dynamic tensions
9 now at work within the park; and

10 WHEREAS the construction of an alternative route into the Kantishna
11 and Wonder Lake area has been identified as a priority by the Fairbanks
12 Chamber of Commerce as well as by the Department of Transportation and
13 Public Facilities;

14 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the Governor is
15 respectfully requested to direct the Department of Transportation and
16 Public Facilities to conduct a location study, environmental impact state-
17 ment, and public involvement plan exploring each of the alternative routes,
18 and determine which of the three routes would be the most feasible to
19 pursue; and be it

20 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor and the commissioner of the Depart-
21 ment of Transportation and Public Facilities expend every effort to work
22 with the U.S. National Park Service to allow for the construction of one of
23 the alternative routes into the Kantishna and Wonder Lake area.

24 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Bill
25 Sheffield, Governor of the State of Alaska, and to Richard Knapp, commis-
26 sioner of the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities.