

Offered: 3/4/85
Referred: Transportation
and Finance

Original sponsors: Coghill, Abood,
Bennett, et al

1 IN THE SENATE

BY THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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CS FOR SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 10 (Resources)

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

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FOURTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

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Requesting that the Department of Natu-

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ral Resources and the Department of

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Transportation and Public Facilities

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expedite the identification and estab-

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lishment of rights-of-way for roads and

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trails on federal Bureau of Land Manage-

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ment plats which qualify under RS 2477.

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

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WHEREAS the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980

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placed 124 million acres of land in Alaska into 71 federal conservation

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units, and outlined specific use requirements and restrictions for those

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units; and

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WHEREAS, contrary to the provisions of the Alaska National Interest

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Lands Conservation Act of 1980, there was no provision for establishing or

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protecting a transportation system in the development of comprehensive

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management plans for each conservation unit by the responsible federal

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management agency; and

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WHEREAS several of the comprehensive management plans have been com-

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pleted without recognition of existing roads and trails, preventing public

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access through these units to state and private lands and to state waters;

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and

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WHEREAS comprehensive management plans for a minimum of nine national

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park and preserve units and five fish and wildlife refuge units are to be

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completed during calendar year 1985; and

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WHEREAS the federal statutory authority for the establishment of

1 recognized rights-of-way for roads and trails is contained in RS 2477 (43
2 U.S.C. sec. 932); and

3 WHEREAS the Department of Natural Resources and the Department of
4 Transportation and Public Facilities on September 28, 1984, signed a Memo-
5 randum of Understanding with the federal Bureau of Land Management involv-
6 ing the northern region of Alaska only, establishing the procedure under
7 which the rights-of-way could be recognized on Bureau of Land Management
8 plats and in comprehensive plans for conservation units;

9 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the Department of
10 Natural Resources and the Department of Transportation and Public Facil-
11 ities immediately develop, in consultation with other affected land owners
12 and managers, and propose a Memorandum of Understanding with the Bureau of
13 Land Management relative to the remainder of the state; and be it

14 FURTHER RESOLVED that the state agencies involved affirmatively soli-
15 cit information from miners, engineers, land surveyors, environmentalists,
16 outdoor groups, landholders, or other persons or organizations that may
17 have knowledge of the historic use of roads and trails to assist the
18 departments in the identification of those roads and trails that could
19 qualify under the provisions of RS 2477 (43 U.S.C. sec. 932) for addition
20 to the state transportation system, and that may be useful to the federal
21 agencies developing comprehensive management plans for the various Alaska
22 National Interest Lands Conservation units; and be it

23 FURTHER RESOLVED that the involved state agencies develop draft pol-
24 icies regarding management, maintenance, liability, vacation, categories,
25 widths, and other relevant concerns related to RS 2477 roads and trails,
26 and that the agencies review these draft policies with affected landowners
27 and managers, and then present these draft policies to the legislature
28 during the second session of the Fourteenth Alaska State Legislature.

29 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Bill Shef-

1 field, Governor of the State of Alaska, to the Honorable Esther Wunnicke,
2 Commissioner of Natural Resources, to the Honorable Richard J. Knapp,
3 Commissioner of Transportation and Public Facilities, and to Michael J.
4 Penfold, State Director of the Bureau of Land Management.