

BY REP. C.DAVIS, Taylor

1 IN THE HOUSE

2

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 87

3

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

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SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5

Requesting certain work on the Wrangell

6

Narrows by the United States Army Corps

7

of Engineers.

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

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WHEREAS the Wrangell Narrows, located south of Petersburg, Alaska, is
10 an important part of the transportation network of Alaska; and

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WHEREAS the Alaska State Legislature recognizes the importance and
12 value of the Wrangell Narrows as a marine transportation link to both
13 Southeast Alaska and the entire United States; and

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WHEREAS the Alaska marine highway system, an integral part of the
15 state's highways, uses the Wrangell Narrows extensively throughout the
16 year, including 480 to 490 Alaska ferry trips a year; and

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WHEREAS the Wrangell Narrows also conveys numerous commercial vessels
18 of all sizes throughout the year, including cruise ships, tankers, fishing
19 vessels, and tugs with barges and rafts; and

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WHEREAS the tanker Frank H. Brown hit a submerged reef in the Wrangell
21 Narrows on January 20, 1990, and spilled 57,000 gallons of unleaded gaso-
22 line in the waterway; and

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WHEREAS there was a grounding of the U. S. Coast Guard buoy tender
24 Planetree on January 25, 1990; and

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WHEREAS the ongoing survey responsibility of the U.S. Army Corps of
26 Engineers only covers fragments of the Wrangell Narrows, and the last
27 survey done on some of those fragments took from 1983 to 1988; and

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WHEREAS the present depth of the Wrangell Narrows channel is set at 24
29 feet;

1 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests
2 President George Bush to authorize the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to
3 perform an immediate and comprehensive condition survey of the entire
4 length of the Wrangell Narrows with the goal of identifying hazards to
5 navigation, water current impediments, and a safe estimated depth needed
6 for the channel and for all of the Wrangell Narrows; and be it

7 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully re-
8 quests the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to perform a survey of the Wrangell
9 Narrows, incorporating complete hydrostatic plots, to ascertain a speed
10 limit sufficient to allow safe passage of large vessels without causing
11 major erosion along the shoreline.

12 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable George Bush,
13 President of the United States; Lieutenant General Henry J. Hatch, Chief of
14 Engineers and Commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; the Honorable
15 Quentin N. Burdick, Chair of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public
16 Works; the Honorable Ernest F. Hollings, Chair of the Senate Committee on
17 Commerce, Science, and Transportation; the Honorable Walter B. Jones, Chair
18 of the House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries; and to the Honor-
19 able Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the
20 Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation
21 in Congress.