

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 25
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES KUBINA, Koponen

Introduced: 4/5/91

Referred: Transportation, Resources

A RESOLUTION

1 Relating to the rebuilding of the historic Copper River Railroad between Cordova and
2 Chitina by the State of Alaska.

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

4 WHEREAS the state needs to develop the resources of the state while preserving the beauty of
5 this great land; and

6 WHEREAS the rebuilding of the Copper River Railroad between Cordova and Chitina would
7 draw tourists to the state to travel the beautiful and historic route between those cities in a fashion
8 similar to the White Pass and Yukon Scenic Railway in Skagway; and

9 WHEREAS the communities of Cordova, McCarthy, and Chitina could develop their mining
10 heritage along with the rebuilding of the railroad, thereby creating a natural draw to Prince William
11 Sound and the Interior; and

12 WHEREAS the Copper River Railroad would be the second phase of a three phase railroad
13 expansion and development connecting Seward, Anchorage, Fairbanks, Chitina, and Cordova, with the
14 Alaska marine highway serving as the last leg; and

15 WHEREAS the rebuilding and development of the Copper River Railroad should be
16 cooperatively undertaken by the state and private enterprise; and

1 **WHEREAS** the Copper River Railroad would be more environmentally compatible with the rich
2 salmon runs of the Copper River Delta than other forms of transportation; and

3 **WHEREAS** the Copper River Railroad would provide a practical link for development of the
4 natural resources of the Katalla area; and

5 **WHEREAS** the Copper River Railroad would provide access for the Native corporations that
6 hold land between Cordova and Chitina; and

7 **WHEREAS** the Copper River Railroad, being a form of mass transit, would be more compatible
8 with the environment, would be safer during the extreme winters of the Interior, and would allow the
9 state greater control over both the type and degree of development along its corridor than other forms
10 of transportation and access; and

11 **WHEREAS** the decades of debate over whether to develop the Copper River corridor would be
12 provided with an effective compromise by the building of the Copper River Railroad; and

13 **WHEREAS** the proposed Tasnuna Highway road route could connect the Richardson Highway
14 and the Copper River Railroad creating at this junction a new growth center based upon tourism and
15 recreational development;

16 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature recommends that the state investigate the
17 logistics and feasibility of rebuilding and developing the historic Copper River Railroad.

18 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Walter J. Hickel, Governor of Alaska;
19 the Honorable Glenn Olds, Commissioner of Commerce and Economic Development; the Honorable
20 Edgar Blatchford, Commissioner of Community and Regional Affairs; the Honorable Frank Turpin,
21 Commissioner of Transportation and Public Facilities; the Board of Directors of the Alaska Railroad
22 Corporation; and the Alaska Tourism Marketing Council.