

CS FOR HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 31 (TRANSPORTATION)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE HOUSE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Offered: 5/15/91

Referred: Resources

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES M.W.MILLER, Gonzales, Zawacki, Koponen, Sharp, Moyer, Boyer, R.Phillips

A RESOLUTION

1 Relating to the extension of the Alaska Railroad to Canada.

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

3 WHEREAS a transportation corridor was established from Eielson Air Force Base to the
4 Canadian border in 1977; and

5 WHEREAS this transportation corridor was identified and designed to accommodate railroads,
6 highways, pipelines, and transmission lines; and

7 WHEREAS the transportation corridor is adjacent to or traverses heavily timbered forest land
8 that could supply lumber materials for transport by the railroad; and

9 WHEREAS the corridor is adjacent to numerous mineral deposits containing copper, lead, zinc,
10 molybdenum, gold, silver, tungsten, asbestos, and platinum; and

11 WHEREAS the development of a railroad in the corridor would provide a method for the
12 development and transport of these mineral deposits; and

13 WHEREAS the corridor is adjacent to two coal deposits that could supply the energy necessary
14 to develop the mineral deposits along with providing a resource for export by way of the railroad; and

15 WHEREAS a railroad through the corridor would be expected to transport in excess of 3,000,000
16 tons of freight annually and additional amounts due to the development of the other nonmineral resources
17 of the area along with casual freight from other entities that would benefit from the development of the

1 railroad along the corridor;

2 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature recommends that the logistics, economics,
3 potential costs and benefits, and feasibility of extending the Alaska Railroad system to the Canadian
4 border be closely investigated and researched by the state and be incorporated into the statewide
5 transportation plan; and

6 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of the findings and results of the investigation and
7 research be provided to the Alaska State Legislature.

8 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Walter J. Hickel, Governor of Alaska;
9 the Honorable Glenn Olds, commissioner of commerce and economic development; the Honorable Edgar
10 Blatchford, commissioner of community and regional affairs; the Honorable Frank Turpin, commissioner
11 of transportation and public facilities; the Board of Directors of the Alaska Railroad Corporation; and
12 the Alaska Tourism Marketing Council.