

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 83

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Introduced: 2/28/92

Referred: House Special Committee on International Trade and Tourism, Transportation

A RESOLUTION

**1 Supporting increased access near Mt. McKinley through establishment of a visitor activity
2 area at Kantishna.**

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

**4 WHEREAS the Alaska tourism industry recognizes Mt. McKinley as Alaska's premier visitor
5 attraction; and**

**6 WHEREAS enhancing the Mt. McKinley experience for visitors would enhance the tourist
7 industry statewide through tourist satisfaction and expanded seasons; and**

**8 WHEREAS insufficient access to premier viewing areas and lack of facilities at these areas are
9 major obstacles to enhancing the Mt. McKinley experience; and**

**10 WHEREAS the state is uniquely able to obtain rights-of-way and development areas through land
11 trades, trade-offs, and negotiations that can allow private sector development to occur; and**

**12 WHEREAS the Kantishna area, with its dry interior climate and long daylight hours, offers
13 splendid viewing opportunities, together with opportunities to showcase our proud mining heritage and
14 promote both winter and summer activities; and**

**15 WHEREAS access to Kantishna would provide the Alaska private sector with the opportunity
16 to meet the industry's demand for facilities while taking advantage of a historical transportation route**

1 and restricting potentially deleterious environmental effects to areas historically used by the mining
2 industry; and

3 **WHEREAS** it is necessary to design and construct these facilities and transportation systems so
4 that they have the least possible negative effect on the environment, wildlife, and the state's fiscal
5 resources;

6 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully urges the Governor and the
7 executive branch to be aggressive in their resolve to enhance the Mt. McKinley experience for our
8 visitors by developing new environmentally sound access to Kantishna and a Kantishna Historical Visitor
9 Activity Area; and be it

10 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that appropriate state agencies should work with the private sector to
11 thoroughly investigate the potential for the private sector to construct and operate a transportation system,
12 such as an electric railroad, and other facilities that would serve the public needs; and be it

13 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature strongly supports the Governor of
14 Alaska, the Alaska delegation to the U.S. Congress, and the President of the United States in pursuit of
15 the necessary studies, land acquisition processes, and permits to make access to Kantishna and a
16 Kantishna Historical Visitor Activity Area a reality.

17 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Dan Quayle, Vice-President of the
18 United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Robert C. Byrd, president Pro Tempore
19 of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Thomas S. Foley, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; and
20 to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable
21 Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.