

**SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 24**  
**IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA**  
**SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION**

**BY SENATOR MENARD**

**Introduced: 5/1/91**  
**Referred: Transportation**

**A RESOLUTION**

**1 Relating to state ferry tours of Columbia Bay and to service by the marine highway**  
**2 system.**

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

**4 WHEREAS** the state operates ferries to provide transportation to areas of the state not adequately  
**5 served by highways, so the marine highway system is an extension of the state highway system; and**

**6 WHEREAS** the Columbia Glacier is a tourist attraction and tours to the glacier via Columbia  
**7 Bay have been developed by private enterprise for the benefit of the visitors to Alaska and the tourist**  
**8 industry; and**

**9 WHEREAS** the intrusion of the state operated ferries M/V Bartlett and the M/V Tustumena into  
**10 Columbia Bay while traveling between Valdez and Whittier places the state in direct competition with**  
**11 private industry; and**

**12 WHEREAS** the competition from the state operated ferries is unfair because the state subsidizes  
**13 the marine highway system enabling it to offer reduced rates to the public; and**

**14 WHEREAS** state competition places an unreasonable financial burden on private tour operators  
**15 who are in jeopardy of losing their businesses;**

**16 BE IT RESOLVED** by the Alaska State Legislature that the Department of Transportation and

1 Public Facilities, Alaska marine highway system, is requested to cease the practice of allowing state  
2 ferries to enter Columbia Bay between May 16th and September 30th of each year; and be it

3 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska marine highway system is requested to develop a  
4 constant and regular daily schedule between Cordova, Valdez and Whittier, major communities of the  
5 Prince William Sound, so as to better fulfill its function of providing basic transportation services as an  
6 extension of the highway system.

7 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Walter J. Hickel, Governor of the State  
8 of Alaska; the Honorable Frank G. Turpin, commissioner of transportation and public facilities; and to  
9 the Honorable James R. Ayers, director of the Alaska marine highway system.