SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 26

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATOR SHULTZ BY REQUEST

Introduced: 5/6/91
Referred: L&C, Transportation, Finance

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

1 of the area along with casual freight from other entities that would benefit from the development of the
2 railroad along the corridor;
3 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature recommends that the logistics, economics,
4 potential costs and benefits, and feasibility of extending the Alaska Railroad system to the Canadian
5 border be closely investigated and researched by the state; 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.