HOUSE CS FOR CS FOR SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 44 (ITT)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND TOURISM

Offered: 4/27/92
Referred: Transportation

Sponsor(s): SENATORS CRAFT, Shultz, Halford, Menard, Frank, Collins, Rodey

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 Denali National Park as Alaska's premier
5 visitor attraction because of the majestic view of Mt.McKinley, the opportunity to enjoy a wilderness
6 experience, the chance to encounter wildlife in its natural habitat, and the relative solitude of the area;
7 and

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

10 **WHEREAS** insufficient access to premier viewing areas and lack of facilities at these areas are
11 major obstacles to enhancing the wilderness experience; and

12 **WHEREAS** the state is uniquely able to obtain rights-of-way into Kantishna through land
13 exchanges, assertion of rights under RS 2477, application for transportation utility corridors under Title
14 XI of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA), and other legal claims to rights-
15 of-way, and can monitor negotiations that would allow private sector development to occur; and

16 **WHEREAS** the Kantishna area, with its dry interior climate and long daylight hours, offers

1 splendid viewing opportunities and a high potential to promote both summer and winter activities; and

2 **WHEREAS** access to Kantishna would provide the Alaska private sector with the opportunity
3 to meet the increased demand for tourism facilities while taking advantage of a historical transportation
4 route and restricting potentially deleterious environmental effects to areas historically used by the mining
5 industry; and

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

9 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully urges the Governor and the
10 executive branch to be aggressive in their resolve to enhance the Mt. McKinley experience for our
11 visitors by developing new environmentally sound access routes into Kantishna and a Kantishna visitor
12 activity area; and be it

13 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that appropriate state agencies should work with the National Park
14 Service and interested members of the public and private sectors to thoroughly investigate the potential
15 for the private sector to construct and operate a transportation system, such as an electric railroad, and
16 other facilities that would serve the public needs; and be it

17 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature strongly supports the efforts of the
18 Governor of Alaska, the Alaska delegation to the U.S. Congress, and the President of the United States
19 in pursuit of the necessary studies, land acquisition processes, and other necessary permits that would
20 allow new environmentally sound routes into Kantishna and a Kantishna visitor activity area.

21 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable George Bush, President of the United
22 States; the Honorable Dan Quayle, Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate;
23 the Honorable Robert C. Byrd, president Pro Tempore of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Thomas S.
24 Foley, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; James M. Ridenour, Director, National Park
25 Service; Jack Moorhead, Regional Director for Alaska, National Park Service; and to the Honorable Ted
26 Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S.
27 Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.