

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 28
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
EIGHTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES BRICE, Kott, Mulder, Phillips, Davies, James

SENATORS Sharp, Taylor, Miller, Frank, Kelly, Rieger

Introduced: 2/17/93

Referred: Transportation

A RESOLUTION

1 **Supporting increased access near Mt. McKinley through establishment of a visitor**
2 **activity 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
5 premier visitor attraction because of the majestic view of Mt. McKinley, the opportunity to
6 enjoy a wilderness experience, the chance to encounter wildlife in its natural habitat, and the
7 relative solitude of the area; and

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

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

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

1 **WHEREAS** the Kantishna area, with its dry interior climate and long daylight hours,
2 offers splendid viewing opportunities and a high potential to promote both summer and winter
3 activities; and

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

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

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

15 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that appropriate state agencies should work with the National
16 Park Service and interested members of the public and private sectors to thoroughly
17 investigate the potential of establishing a rail utility corridor into Kantishna in which the
18 private sector could construct and operate a transportation system and other facilities that
19 would serve the public needs; and be it

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

25 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Bill Clinton, President of the
26 United States; the Honorable Al Gore, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and President
27 of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Robert C. Byrd, president Pro Tempore of the U.S. Senate;
28 the Honorable Thomas S. Foley, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; Director of
29 the National Park Service; Jack Moorhead, Regional Director for Alaska, National Park
30 Service; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S.
31 Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska
32 delegation in Congress.