

SB


10

Senator John B. (Jack) Coghill
Alaska State Legislature

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TO: LABOR AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE
FROM: SENATOR JACK COGHILL 
DATE: FEBRUARY 18, 1987
RE: SB 10 ALASKA RAILROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY

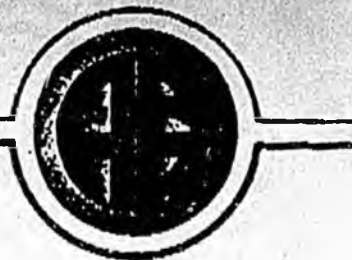
SB 10 repeals Section 42.40.355 of the Alaska Railroad Act. This sub-section prohibits the railroad from applying for rights-of-way in the western unit of the Gates of the Arctic National Preserve under 16 U.S.C. 410hh(4)(b)-(e). 16 U.S.C., etc., refers to Chapter 11 of the ANILCA Act. Chapter 11 allows the State of Alaska to apply for access across or into national parks and preserves if the appropriate requirements are met.

This bill would provide the Alaska Railroad Corporation with the flexibility to study and plan for future railroad extension into an important mineral and resource rich area of the state.

Frank Turpin, President and CEO of the Alaska Railroad Corporation, favors repeal of A.S. 42.40.355. He states in a letter to me: "The legislature has previously found that the Corporation must function as a viable economic entity, which will also provide a level of transportation service that best satisfies the needs of the people of the State. Although any proposed extension of the rail system calls for careful scrutiny consistent with such Legislative purposes, by promoting flexibility, SB 10 meshes well with our desire to responsibly plan for the future."

I urge you to pass this bill as one step toward future resource development.

ALASKA RAILROAD CORPORATION



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April 30, 1985

The Honorable John B. "Jack" Coghill
Alaska State Legislature
Pouch V
Juneau, AK 99811

Subject: SB 303

Dear Senator Coghill:

Thank you for inviting our response to Senate Bill 303, which proposes repeal of A.S. 42.40.355.

As you know, A.S. 42.40.355 provides that the Corporation may not apply for a right-of-way across, or exercise eminent domain in, the western unit of the Gates of the Arctic National Preserve.

Among the many powers assigned to it, the Corporation is authorized to plan for and undertake expansion of the railroad and railroad activities, including extension of the rail system. We support Senate Bill 303, because it creates a flexibility to plan for extensions in an important part of our State.

The Legislature has previously found that the Corporation must function as a viable economic entity, which will also provide a level of transportation service that best satisfies the needs of the people of the State. Although any proposed extension of the rail system calls for careful scrutiny consistent with such Legislative purposes, by promoting flexibility, SB 303 meshes well with our desire to responsibly plan for the future.

Sincerely,

F. G. Turpin
President and Chief Executive Officer