

***HB***

***510***

ALASKA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

COMMENTS ON HB 510

FEBRUARY 26, 1990

The Commission does not have a position on the policy of whether or not railroads should be regulated.

The Commission recognizes and is quite familiar with the provisions proposed in HB 510 since they closely parallel those of AS 42.06 (the Pipeline Act). The Commission, however, is unfamiliar with railroads and has had insufficient time to research whether these same provisions are logical and appropriate to regulate railroads. If the Legislature desires, the Commission will obtain the necessary expertise to identify and evaluate the regulatory mechanics that are applicable to railroads.

The Commission also requests that the Legislature allow the presentation of a fiscal note to be deferred since the Commission does not have sufficient information at this time to make a reasonably accurate estimate. Because of the need to develop the necessary expertise and to develop the regulations proposed in the legislation, the Commission anticipates that there would be considerable "start up" costs during the first two years after such legislation is enacted.