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SENATOR JERRY WARD
ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

SPONSOR STATEMENT FOR SB 44 AND SB 45

**Establishment of an Alaska Toll Bridge and Causeway Authority and
appropriation for the Design of Knik Arm Crossing**

The proposed legislation would appropriate \$1 million in state general funds to form the authority, and to design a crossing that will span Cook Inlet from the Port of Anchorage to Point McKenzie. Eighty percent of the construction costs will be covered by federal funds. The Causeway Authority will issue transportation bonds for up to 20% of the costs, and collect tolls to re-pay the bonds.

I introduced the same legislation during the 13th legislature. Now with Congressman Young's leadership we can finally cross the Knik Arm. When Congressman Don Young was elected to chair the U.S. House Transportation Committee, he announced two priorities that he would be working on. One was providing federal funds to help build the Knik Arm Crossing. The Alaska Toll Bridge and Causeway Authority created in this proposed bill has been intended for decades in various legislation and would oversee the use of federal funds appropriated for this project.




SENATOR JERRY WARD

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

MEMORANDUM

TO: Senator John Cowdery, Chair
Senate Transportation Committee

FROM: Senator Jerry Ward 

DATE: March 1, 2001

SUBJECT: SB 44 and SB 45 Request for Hearing

I respectfully request you hear SB 44 and SB 45 bills relating to the establishment of an Alaska Toll Bridge and Causeway Authority and appropriation for the design for the Knik Arm Crossing. Enclosed is a Sponsor Statement for these bills.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. If you or your staff should have any questions, please contact me at 465-4940.

JW/lrb