

HB

304

ALASKA STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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REPRESENTATIVE JOHN COGHILL

HB 304 SPONSOR STATEMENT

The Jack Coghill Bridge to the Interior

In 1961, State House Representative Jack Coghill was working on state funding to build a bridge over the Nenana River just south of Nenana at Rex. Part of the difficulty in getting funding for this bridge was that no roads were going to or coming from the area at the time. However, Jack knew that if a bridge were built, roads would soon connect the Interior to Southcentral Alaska.

The idea of a bridge with no connecting roads was so humorous, that some of the legislators called it "Jack Coghill's Bridge to Nowhere." Despite the criticism, Mr. Coghill held that the road would soon become a thoroughfare between Fairbanks and Anchorage. Mr. Coghill was successful in getting the funding, and once the appropriations for the bridge were made, it was built in record time. Soon after construction was completed, just as planned, roads to and from the bridge were built. Because of Mr. Coghill's efforts, the travel time between Anchorage and Fairbanks was cut from twelve hours to six, and the citizens of Alaska continue to benefit from the increased access that the bridge has provided.

Bridge #216, which currently has no name, crosses the Nenana River at the area called "Rex Crossing." At the frequent suggestion of my son Joshua, and other close friends of my father, I would like to name the bridge the "Jack Coghill Bridge to the Interior" to commemorate the contributions of one of Alaska's great citizens. Jack Coghill has served the state in various positions throughout the twentieth century:

- Territorial legislature member
- Alaska Constitutional Convention member
- State House Representative
- State Senator
- Lieutenant Governor under Walter Hickel

His visionary ideas, years of service to Alaska, and longtime citizenship of the Nenana community are worthy of honor.



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David M. Talerico, Mayor

May 12, 2003

Representative John Coghill Jr.
Via: fax # 465-3258

Dear Representative Coghill,

Kindly allow this letter to serve as a letter of support for renaming the bridge on the Parks Highway, at the Rex Crossing the "Jack Coghill Bridge to the Interior". The Borough Administration is fully in support of this concept, as we know Mr. Jack Coghill was instrumental in obtaining the funds for this principal bridge within the Denali Borough.

Again, please accept this letter as full support from the Denali Borough Administration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David M. Talerico".

Mayor David M. Talerico

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2003 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: _____
 Bill Version: HB304
 () Publish Date: _____

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): 05/07/03 Dept. Affected: DOT&PF
 Title Jack Coghill Bridge to the Interior BRU Highways and Aviation
 Component Northern Region Highways & Aviation
 Sponsor Coghill
 Requester HTRA Component No. 2068

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
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CHANGE IN REVENUES ()						
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FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type--Do not abbreviate)						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2003) cost: 0.0
 Mark this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2004 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Prepared by: Dennis R. Poshard Phone 465-3900
 Division Special Assistant to Commissioner Date/Time 5/12/03 10:53 AM
 Approved by: Commissioner Mike Barton Date 5/12/2003
 Agency Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities