

ALABAMA LEGISLATURE COMMITTEE FILES 1997-1998 00/2

9495 HOUSE TRANSPORTATION

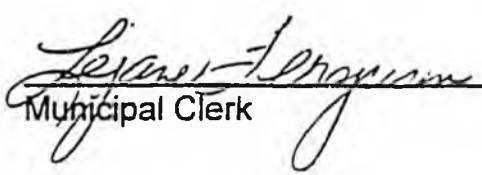
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PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Municipal Assembly this  
8th day of October, 1996

  
Chair

ATTEST:

  
Municipal Clerk

By: Mayor Cunningham  
Introduced/Tabled: September 3, 1996  
Adopted: October 7, 1996

CITY OF NORTH POLE

RESOLUTION 96-10

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORTH POLE SUPPORTING THE DENALI RAILWAY SYSTEM

WHEREAS, the increasing demand for access to Denali National Park and Preserve cannot continue being met by the existing Denali Road, and

WHEREAS, dedicating a few hundred acres of the six-million acre park for use by the people will not degrade the Park, and will provide for the enjoyment and education of many, and

WHEREAS, Kantishna Holdings Inc. has proposed the Denali Railway System Project - an environmentally sound, sensible, innovative, and unique tourism railroad between Healy and Kantishna to provide access to the Park, and

WHEREAS, the Denali Railway System Project is a visitor transportation infrastructure with the promise of an extended, year-round visitor season; and

WHEREAS, the Project will create more than 500 permanent jobs for Alaskans.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of North Pole that:

We give full support to the creation of a railway utility corridor as proposed by Kantishna Holdings, Inc., as an appropriate, environmentally sound and sensible means of access to the Park to better serve the visitors of our great State of Alaska.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY A DULY CONSTITUTED QUORUM OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORTH POLE, ALASKA THIS 7th DAY OF OCTOBER, 1996.

ATTEST:



*Lute M. Cunningham*  
MAYOR LUTE M. CUNNINGHAM

*Jana Stovarsky*  
JANA STOVARSKY  
CITY CLERK

By: S. Sterling  
Amended: 6/4/96  
Adopted: 6/4/96

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH  
RESOLUTION SERIAL NO. 96-027 (AM)

A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH ASSEMBLY IN SUPPORT OF THE CREATION OF A NORTHERN RAILROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY TO WONDER LAKE AND FOR THE BUILDING OF THE DENALI RAILWAY SYSTEM TO SERVICE DENALI NATIONAL PARK.

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WHEREAS, Denali National Park (Denali) is the top visitor destination in Alaska and a critical element in the Alaska visitor/tourism industry and access into Denali is extremely restricted due to the limited existing transportation infrastructure; and,

WHEREAS, the existing park road is at its carrying capacity and is creating adverse impacts on the wildlife and the environment, management problems for the National Park Service, a bottleneck in the visitor/tourism delivery system of Alaska, and access problems for park inholders; and,

WHEREAS, no new road access into the interior of Denali is being proposed by the state or federal government; and,

WHEREAS, the National Park System Advisory Board's December 14, 1995, resolution accepting the "Denali Task Force

Report" specifically endorsed the creation of a new northern railroad route to Wonder Lake; and,

WHEREAS, Kantishna Holdings, Inc., has petitioned the Secretary of the Interior to create a new northern railroad right-of-way to the area of Wonder Lake and proposed to build the Denali Railway System to ensure long-term resource protection at Denali, as well as, to provide efficient year-round access to the interior of the park for inholders and the NPS; and,

WHEREAS, the visitor/tourism industry of the entire state of Alaska will be enhanced by the year-round operation of the Denali Railway System and all of Alaska's "Railbelt," including the community served by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough will benefit from the permanent jobs and other economic activities created by the construction and operation of the Denali Railway System; and,

WHEREAS, the proposed Denali Railway System is an environmentally sound and sensible undertaking that will commit substantial private capital investment in permanent infrastructure in Alaska's railbelt region and the creation of over 500 new jobs in Alaska's economy; and,

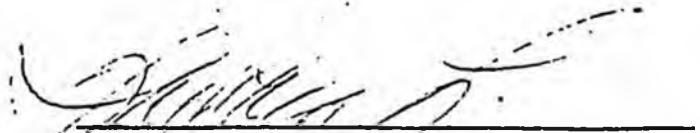
WHEREAS, the Denali Railway System will not compete with the proposed Denali southside development plan; and,

WHEREAS, the Alaska Legislature, the Denali Borough, the Fairbanks North Star Borough, the City of Nenana, the City of Seward, the Alaska State Commission on Federal Areas, the Alaska Visitors Association, the Fairbanks Building & Construction Trades Council AFL-CIO, the Associated General Contractors of Alaska, and many other organizations and individuals have endorsed a new northern railroad right-of-way or the Denali Railway system.


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough strongly endorses the creation of a new northern railroad right-of-way to Wonder Lake and Kantishna Holdings, Inc's. proposal to construct and operate the Denali Railway System within Denali National Park and Preserve, with appropriate development of rail-based visitor facilities within the Matanuska-Susitna Borough.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough encourages the Secretary of the Interior to direct the National Park Service to create a railroad right-of-way to Wonder Lake immediately for the development of the Denali Railway System. The Matanuska-Susitna Borough strongly encourages the Governor of the State of Alaska, his commissioners, and the Alaska Legislature to give their fullest support to the creation of the Denali Railway System.

ADOPTED by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly this 4th,  
day of June, 1996.

  
BARBARA LACHER, Borough Mayor

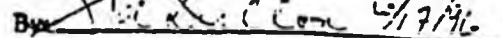
ATTEST:

  
SANDRA A. DILLON, Borough Clerk

(SEAL)

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

THIS IS TO CERTIFY that this is an  
exact duplicate of the record on file in  
the Borough Clerk's Office.

By:  6/17/96

IN SUPPORT OF KANTISHNA HOLDINGS INC'S. PROPOSAL FOR  
THE CREATION OF A NORTHERN RAILROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY TO WONDER LAKE  
AND FOR THE BUILDING OF THE DENALI RAILWAY SYSTEM TO SERVICE  
DENALI NATIONAL PARK

- WHEREAS, Denali National Park (Denali) is the top visitor destination in Alaska and a critical element in the Alaska Visitor / Tourism Industry and access into Denali is extremely restricted due to the limited existing transportation infrastructure, and
- WHEREAS, the existing park road in Denali is at its carrying capacity and is creating adverse impacts on the environment, creates management problems for the National Park Service, a bottleneck in the visitor / tourism delivery system of Alaska, access problems for park inholders and that no new road access to the interior of Denali is being proposed by the State or Federal Government, and
- WHEREAS, the National Park System Advisory Board's December 14, 1994 Resolution accepting the "Denali Task Force Report" endorsed the creation of a new northern railroad route to Wonder Lake, and
- WHEREAS, Kantishna Holdings Inc., has proposed the Denali Railway System to provide year-round access to the interior of Denali and has petitioned the Secretary of the Interior to create a new northern railroad right-of-way to the area of Wonder Lake on which to build it, and
- WHEREAS, The Alaska Legislature, the Denali Borough, the Alaska State Commission on Federal Areas, the Alaska Visitors Association, the Fairbanks Building & Construction Trades Council AFL-CIO, the Associated General Contractors of Alaska, the Alaska State Chamber of Commerce and many other organizations and individuals have endorsed a new northern railroad right-of-way and Kantishna Holdings Inc's. proposal, and
- WHEREAS, The Denali Railway System is an environmentally sound and sensible development that will result in a substantial financial investment in permanent infrastructure in Alaska and the creation of hundreds of new jobs in Alaska's economy, and
- WHEREAS, the City of Nenana has plans to expand the visitor / tourism infrastructure in Alaska and will benefit from the development of new infrastructure created by the Denali Railway System, and
- WHEREAS, the City of Nenana and all of the Alaska's "Railbelt" will benefit from the permanent jobs and other economic activity created by the construction and operation of the Denali Railway System.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the City of Nenana strongly endorses the creation of a new northern railroad right-of-way to Wonder Lake and Kantishna Holdings Inc's. proposal to construct and operate the Denali Railway System within Denali National Park.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City of Nenana encourages the Secretary of the Interior to act upon this proposal immediately and asks the National Park Service, the State of Alaska, through its Governor, Legislature and Commissioners to give their fullest support to the creation of the Denali Railway System as proposed by Kantishna Holdings Inc.

By: Robert L. Knight

This 11 day of April, 1996.



# ALASKA VISITORS ASSOCIATION

3201 C Street, Suite 403 • Anchorage, Alaska 99503

Tel: (907) 561-5733 • Fax: (907) 561-5727

1993-94

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Westmark Hotels  
Anchorage, Alaska

1st Vice President

John Binkley

Riverboat Discovery  
Fairbanks, Alaska

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Phillips Cruises & Tours

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Denali Park Resorts

Tom Tougas

Kenai Fjords Tours

Brad Walker

Alaska Airlines

Karen Cowart

Executive Director

May 11, 1994

Joe Fields  
Kantishna Group, Inc.  
P.O. Box 71047  
Fairbanks, AK 99707

Dear Mr. Fields:

The Alaska Visitors Association (AVA) Board of Directors supports the Kantishna Group's pursuit of a right-of-way to construct a railroad into Kantishna. We believe this venture would not only provide a quality visitor experience, but also help accommodate the need for increased access into Denali National Park. In light of projected visitor growth, it is becoming more and more important to find environmentally acceptable and economically feasible ways to allow greater visitation into Denali.

In recent years, the AVA board has adopted a resolution encouraging the State of Alaska to acquire a right-of-way into Kantishna. A transportation corridor of this type would be ideal for either rail or road development. A rail, however, would most likely represent the most environmentally sensible alternative to transporting large numbers of visitors into Denali and Kantishna.

We wish you good luck with your endeavors. If you need further clarification, please don't hesitate to call myself at 279-0001, or the AVA office at 561-5733.

Sincerely,

Tim Worthen  
AVA Park Access Committee Chair

**RESOLUTION**

**A RESOLUTION BY THE FAIRBANKS CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU IN SUPPORT OF THE CREATION OF A NORTHERN ACCESS ROUTE TO DENALI NATIONAL PARK AND RESERVE.**

WHEREAS, Denali National Park is one of the top visitor destinations in Alaska; and

WHEREAS, Denali National Park is a critical element in the Alaska Visitor Industry throughout the State and Fairbanks; and

WHEREAS, the current limits on access into Denali National Park restrict many visitors and residents from entering the Park; and

WHEREAS, the existing park road in Denali National Park is at capacity and has become a bottleneck in the visitor/tourism delivery system for park in-holders; and

WHEREAS, no new road access to the interior of Denali National Park is being proposed by the state or federal government; and

WHEREAS, a northern access will provide feasible access for park visitors; and

WHEREAS, a northern access route will create new wildlife viewing and recreational opportunities for visitors to Denali National Park; and

WHEREAS, a northern access route within the Denali National Park will be on National Park Service managed lands, not private lands; and

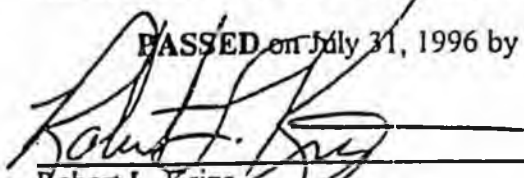
WHEREAS, a northern access route to the interior of Denali National Park will allow for more visitors into the park with little impact on the natural surroundings of the park's interior; and

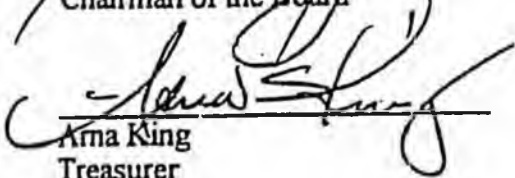
WHEREAS, a northern access route will provide for the long term needs of the visitor/tourism industry for increased access to the interior of Denali National Park and provide for the needs of the handicapped and elderly.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** that the Fairbanks Convention and Visitors Bureau supports the creation of a northern access route into the interior of Denali National Park.

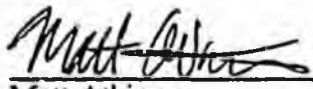
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** that the Fairbanks Convention and Visitors Bureau encourages the National Park Service at Denali National Park and all its levels, the State of Alaska, its Governor, Legislature, and National Delegation to give full support to the creation of a northern access route as an appropriate and sensible means of access to the Park to better serve the visitor/tourism industry and residents of the State.

**PASSED** on July 31, 1996 by the Fairbanks Convention and Visitors Bureau Board of Directors.

  
Robert L. Krize  
Chairman of the Board

  
Arma King  
Treasurer

  
Peggy Martin  
Chair Elect

  
Matt Atkinson  
Secretary

# CORRECTION

THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENT(S)  
HAVE BEEN REFILMED TO  
ASSURE LEGIBILITY OR PAGINATION



Rev. 6/98

Central Microfilm Services  
Department of Education  
State of Alaska

## RESOLUTION

### A RESOLUTION BY THE FAIRBANKS CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU IN SUPPORT OF THE CREATION OF A NORTHERN ACCESS ROUTE TO DENALI NATIONAL PARK AND RESERVE.

WHEREAS, Denali National Park is one of the top visitor destinations in Alaska; and

WHEREAS, Denali National Park is a critical element in the Alaska Visitor Industry throughout the State and Fairbanks; and

WHEREAS, the current limits on access into Denali National Park restrict many visitors and residents from entering the Park; and

WHEREAS, the existing park road in Denali National Park is at capacity and has become a bottleneck in the visitor/tourism delivery system for park in-holders; and

WHEREAS, no new road access to the interior of Denali National Park is being proposed by the state or federal government; and

WHEREAS, a northern access will provide feasible access for park visitors; and

WHEREAS, a northern access route will create new wildlife viewing and recreational opportunities for visitors to Denali National Park; and

WHEREAS, a northern access route within the Denali National Park will be on National Park Service managed lands, not private lands; and

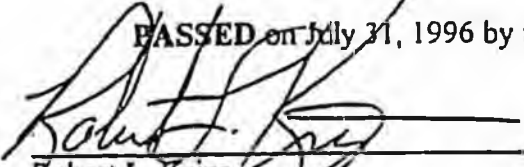
WHEREAS, a northern access route to the interior of Denali National Park will allow for more visitors into the park with little impact on the natural surroundings of the park's interior; and

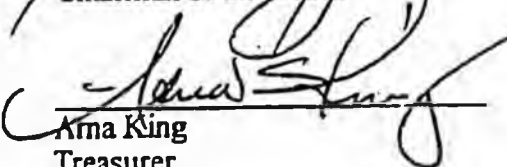
WHEREAS, a northern access route will provide for the long term needs of the visitor/tourism industry for increased access to the interior of Denali National Park and provide for the needs of the handicapped and elderly.

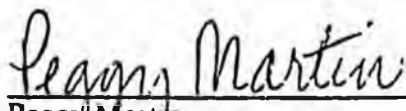
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the Fairbanks Convention and Visitors Bureau supports the creation of a northern access route into the interior of Denali National Park.

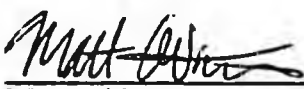
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that the Fairbanks Convention and Visitors Bureau encourages the National Park Service at Denali National Park and all its levels, the State of Alaska, its Governor, Legislature, and National Delegation to give full support to the creation of a northern access route as an appropriate and sensible means of access to the Park to better serve the visitor/tourism industry and residents of the State.

PASSED on July 31, 1996 by the Fairbanks Convention and Visitors Bureau Board of Directors.

  
Robert L. Krize  
Chairman of the Board

  
Ama King  
Treasurer

  
Peggy Martin  
Chair Elect

  
Matt Atkinson  
Secretary

## ACVB RESOLUTION

A Resolution of the Anchorage Convention & Visitors Bureau  
in Endorsement of the Concept for  
Creation of a Northern Railroad Right-of-Way  
to Wonder Lake and the  
Building of the Denali Railway System



ANCHORAGE  
Convention &  
Visitors Bureau

WHEREAS, Denali National Park is the premier visitor destination in Alaska and access into Denali is extremely restricted due to the limited existing transportation infrastructure of the Park; and

WHEREAS, the Denali Railway System will create new year-round access from the north side of the Park to the Kantishna/Wonder Lake area; and

WHEREAS, no new road access into the interior of Denali is now being proposed by the State or Federal governments; and

WHEREAS, the Denali Railway System will be privately funded and will not compete with the publicly-funded Denali Southside Development Plan; and

WHEREAS, all of Alaska will be enhanced by the year-round operation of the Denali Railway System, especially Alaska's "Railbelt," including the Municipality of Anchorage - The Gateway to Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the National Park System Advisory Board's December 14, 1994 Resolution accepting the "Denali Task Force Report" specifically endorsed the creation of a new modern railroad route to Wonder Lake.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Anchorage Convention & Visitors Bureau Board of Directors on this 5th day of October, 1996, resolves:

1. ACVB endorses the concept of the development of the Denali Railway System, and requests the Secretary of the Interior to create a railroad right-of-way suitable for such development within the Denali National Park and Preserve.
2. ACVB encourages the Governor of Alaska, his Commissioners and staff, and the Alaska Legislature to give their fullest support to the creation of the Denali Railway System.
3. ACVB will continue to endorse this project based upon the current proposal, presented as the "Denali Railway System."

Max Lowe  
Chairman

Bill Elander  
President & CEO

524 W. Fourth Avenue  
Anchorage, Alaska  
907-278-2212

907-276-4118  
Fax 907-278-5559  
email:acvb@alaska.net

# The Anchorage Times

Publisher: BILL J. ALLEN

"Believing in Alaskans, putting Alaska first"

Editors: DENNIS FRADLEY, PAUL JENKINS, WILLIAM J. TOBIN

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## Denali railroad

**T**HE PROPOSAL for a privately built and operated railroad system within Denali National Park received another boost the other day with the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly's unanimous endorsement.

The proposed rail line on the north side of Denali Park would link the Healy area, off the Parks Highway, and the Wonder Lake-Kantishna region in the center of the park. According to a resolution passed by the Assembly, the rail line would not compete with the proposed southside development on Denali State Park land.

"The proposed Denali Railway system is an environmentally sound and sensible undertaking that will commit substantial private capital investment in permanent infrastructure in Alaska's railbelt region and the creation of over 500 new jobs," the Assembly said. It called on Gov. Tony Knowles and the Legislature to give their full support to the project and for the secretary of Interior to act quickly to create a railroad right-of-way within the park.

A special federal-state task force last year identified the proposed system as a preferred alternative to a new road within the park. The task force also endorsed development of a destination site on the south side of the mountain, which would include a visitors center on state park land west of Talkeetna, in the Petersville Creek area.

In years past, business and civic interests on the park's north side and those on the south have competed strongly to win an advantage in such hoped-for tourist-dollar enhancements as a new road, hotel or visitor center. The competition has played into the hands of anti-development forces that have used the squabbles to block all the proposals. As a consequence, no project has gone forward.

In light of the past differences, it's encouraging now to see the Matanuska-Susitna Assembly support a project important to Interior Alaska. The more that Alaska communities stand together like this, the better the chances are that the state may finally see progress in building new roads, new visitor destination centers and perhaps a new railroad link into Denali National Park.

For the record, in addition to support from the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly, the Denali Railway project has received endorsements from the Fairbanks North Star Borough and the Denali Borough, as well as the cities of Seward, Nenana and Fairbanks.

It would be appropriate for the Assembly to add Anchorage's name to the list of supporters.

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... Business and civic interests on the park's north side and those on the south have competed strongly . . . . The competition has played into the hands of anti-development forces . . .

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## *Citizens' Advisory Commission on Federal Areas*

December 7, 1995

3700 Airport Way  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709-4699  
(907) 451-2775  
Fax: 451-2761

Mr. Joseph N. Fields III  
Chairman & President  
Kantishna Holdings Inc.  
P.O. Box 71047  
Fairbanks, AK 99707

Dear Mr. Fields:

This letter serves as formal notification of the Citizens' Advisory Commission on Federal Areas endorsement of the Kantishna Holdings, Inc. proposed Denali Railway System Project. At its November 15, 1995 meeting in Anchorage, the Commission voted unanimously to endorse the proposed railway project. In addition to specifically supporting the proposed Denali Railway System, the motion adopted by the Commission also expressed support for the general concept of a northern access route into Denali National Park & Preserve.

In recent years it has become clear that the growing visitor demand for access to Denali National Park & Preserve cannot be met by the existing park road and associated facilities. The latest effort to meet this increasing demand by providing visitor facilities and interpretive sites outside park boundaries as proposed in the Denali Southside Development Concept Plan will no doubt relieve some of the pressure. However, the Commission believes that demand for visitor access to the park itself will continue to exceed the capacity of the road by an ever increasing margin. The Denali Railway System proposal, by providing an alternative means to travel into Wonder Lake, as well as a range of visitor facilities, would serve to meet much of the increasing visitor demand.

It is our understanding that the proposed railway system also would provide year round access for private property owners within the park. The Commission is familiar with numerous past problems experienced by park inholders in attempting to secure access to their properties by way of the existing park road. We have always fully supported the rights of private property owners to adequate and feasible access to their property "for economic and other purposes," as guaranteed by the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA).

The Commission is also aware of the opposition to development of tourism facilities on private properties within the Kantishna area of the park. Much of this opposition is based upon concerns about the ability of the existing park road to meet the increased traffic levels which