

SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 16

TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, THE UNITED STATES SENATE, AND THE UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

Your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of the Territory of Alaska most respectfully represent that,

Whereas, the construction of wagon roads and trails is vitally essential to the development of Alaska, and

Whereas, this has been recognized both by Congress and the Territorial Legislature in large appropriations made for road purposes in order that rich mineral districts in all parts of Alaska be afforded a base of supplies, without which their development is retarded and often prevented, and

Whereas, the laws of the United States require the owners of mining claims in Alaska, as well as elsewhere, to perform at least one hundred dollars worth of labor or improvements during each calendar year on each mining claim, and

Whereas, it is a well and long established fact that a very large proportion of the labor and improvements performed to hold mining claims is absolutely wasted and thrown away, and

Whereas, in a multitude of instances mining claims are so distant from the base of supplies that the cost of travel and transportation for the purpose of performing annual labor far exceeds the sum of one hundred dollars.

Now, therefore, we, your Memorialists, the Legislature of the Territory of Alaska, most respectfully urge that the Laws of Congress relating to the performance of annual labor on mining claims in Alaska be so amended as to permit the owner of such claim, at his option, to pay in lieu of the work required by law, the sum of one hundred dollars into the road fund of the Divisional Road Commission in which such claim is located; said money so paid to be expended as far as practicable on roads in the vicinity of the claim.

Passed the Senate, May 3, 1917.

Passed the House May 3, 1917.