

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 5.

TO THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY AND THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY:

Your Memorialists, the Legislature of the Territory of Alaska, respectfully represent that:

Along the coast of the Territory of Alaska, extending from the Portland Canal on the south to Unimak Island at the extremity of the Alaskan Peninsula, a distance of some two thousand miles, there are engaged in the fishing industry some four or five thousand vessels of registered capacity of from five to two hundred tons burden, and in the waters of Bering Sea from Bristol Bay to Bering Straits, during the summer season there are many small craft employed in coastwise and foreign trading; that owing to frequent fogs, storms and other danger incident to navigation, disasters occur and often these vessels are stranded or wrecked on the shores bordering these waters, far from any habitation where aid can be secured

Your Memorialists further represent that, owing to the long reaches of uninhabited coast, the lack of lights, the many reefs and bars, and the dangerous currents, it has been impossible for the Coast Guard Service to establish stations in sufficient number to adequately succor ship-wrecked vessels or speedily seek and rescue mariners stranded or lost on the stormy and rock-bound coast.

Your Memorialists further represent that the conditions along the coast of Alaska are entirely different from those existing on the shores of the Atlantic or Pacific along the coast of the United States. There the shore is inhabited; Coast Guard stations are located at frequent intervals; the waters are comparatively temperate; storms and fogs less frequent; hazardous points easily accessible, so that when vessels are stranded or their crews in danger, prompt and efficient rescue work can be done. Here weeks may elapse before even knowledge of the stranded vessel or wreck may be known, and weeks more before a vessel can be secured for relief. Since roads and trails along the coast are absent and settlements few and far between, the only means of sending relief is by sea.

Your Memorialists therefore urge upon your earnest consideration that inasmuch as it is impossible to extend the Coast Guard Service, so as to adequately protect and rescue ship-wrecked mariners and crews, as is the beneficent purpose of

that service, that such relief could be afforded by vessels of suitable class stationed at intervals along the coast of Alaska; and therefore

Your Memorialists earnestly pray that such vessels be stationed at Ketchikan, Juneau, Cordova, Seward and Nome, to act in conjunction with, or under the Coast Guard Service, as the most efficacious and economical method for affording assistance to vessels in distress, and for succor and rescue of their crew and passengers.

And your Memorialists will ever pray.

Passed by the House, April 2, 1921.

Passed by the Senate, April 25, 1921.

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 6.

TO THE PRESIDENT, THE CONGRESS AND THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR OF THE UNITED STATES:

We, your Memorialists, the Legislature of the Territory of Alaska, respectfully and earnestly represent that:

WHEREAS, ocean transportation between Alaska and the States during recent years has so greatly decreased in efficiency and increased in the expense to the traveling and shipping public that the industries of the Territory throughout have become paralyzed and are in danger of extinction; and

WHEREAS, the private companies now engaged in the transportation business between Alaska and the States have shown themselves either unwilling or unable to furnish those transportation facilities which are absolutely necessary to the growth of the industries of the Territory; and

WHEREAS, the high cost of transportation and the inefficiency of the present system to supply the needs of the country have so crippled the industries as to drive a large percentage of the white population out of the Territory, and threaten the industries thereof with extinction; and

WHEREAS, the financial resources of the Territory have so diminished that it will be impossible for the Territorial Legislature to raise the necessary funds locally with which to supply the needs of better transportation facilities,