

## HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 6.

TO THE HONORABLE, THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES:

Your memorialists, the Legislature of the Territory of Alaska, in regular session assembled, respectfully represent:

That the future growth and development of the greater portion of the Territory of Alaska is largely dependent upon the successful operation and maintenance of the Alaska Railroad; that during the comparatively few years since its completion, this railroad has been the chief factor in bringing into interior Alaska large and important mining and other interests, some of which involve the expenditure of many millions of dollars, and which are, with good reason, expected to give permanent employment to a great many people, and to result in the ultimate settlement, development and prosperity of Alaska;

That freight and passenger traffic over the Alaska Railroad is showing a steady and gradual increase, but in the opinion of our memorialists it is greatly hampered because of the fact that no protection whatever is afforded either the traveling public or the employees of the railroad against the dangers and hazards incident to railroad travel, as the United States has elected, in the operation of the railroad, to avail itself of its sovereign right not to be sued in any matter or action arising out of the operation of the road;

That your memorialists believe that it is a matter of simple justice and right that the United States should in no wise differ in its status from any other common carrier, and should be willing to make reparation and should compensate, so far as it is possible to do so, any person suffering injuries or any financial loss by reason of the operation of the said railroad, or by reason of any accident arising out of the operation thereof, on the same basis as if the United States were a common carrier.

WHEREFORE, Your memorialists pray that a law be enacted by the Congress by the provisions of which the United States shall consent to be sued in all actions founded upon any contract, express or implied, with the Government of the United States, in connection with the operation of the Alaska Railroad, or for damages, liquidated or unliquidated, whether founded in tort or otherwise, arising out of the operation of the said Alaska Railroad, in respect to which the party

would be entitled to redress against the United States either in a court of law or equity if the United States were suable; declaring the Alaska Railroad to be a common carrier and subject to all the laws of the United States pertaining to common carriers; that such actions may be prosecuted in the courts of Alaska, and that the judgments which may be rendered therein against the United States may be paid in the same manner as judgments rendered in the United States Court of Claims.

And your memorialists will ever pray.

Passed by the House, April 1, 1927.

Passed by the Senate, April 12, 1927.

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### HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 7.

TO THE HONORABLE SECRETARY OF WAR:

Your memorialists, the Legislature of Alaska, respectfully represent:

That Yakutat, Alaska, has a population of about two hundred and fifty individuals in the winter and about four hundred in the summer, that it has no communication by mail except through the medium of one steamer each three weeks in the summer and one steamer each month in the winter, that it has a splendid harbor where the fishing fleet from the halibut banks in the Gulf of Alaska seek shelter in every storm and where scores of fishermen are forced to lie sometimes for weeks at a time without any means of informing their families as to their safety.

NOW THEREFORE, your memorialists most respectfully urge that a radio station be established at Yakutat for public service as soon as possible.

And your memorialists will ever pray.

Passed by the House, April 8, 1927.

Passed by the Senate, April 15, 1927.

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### HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 8.

TO THE PRESIDENT AND CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES, AND TO THE WAR DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.:

Your memorialist, the Legislature of the Territory of Alaska, respectfully represents:

That the completion of the government highway from Skagway, Alaska, to the international boundary line at the