

House Joint Memorials

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 1

TO THE HONORABLE HAROLD L. ICKES, SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR, TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES, AND TO THE HONORABLE ANTHONY J. DIMOND, DELEGATE TO CONGRESS FROM ALASKA:

Your Memorialist, the Legislature of the Territory of Alaska, in the Extraordinary Session of the Thirteenth Regular Session assembled, respectfully submits that:

WHEREAS, under the provisions of the Act of March 12, 1914, the President of the United States was authorized and empowered to take the necessary steps toward the construction of a railroad connecting the southern coast of Alaska with the Interior of Alaska, and,

WHEREAS, the construction of the Alaska Railroad commenced in the spring of 1915, at Seward, Alaska, the southern terminus and was continued until the road was completed to Fairbanks, and,

WHEREAS, the Alaska Railroad has, and is, serving a good purpose in the development of a large area, but is hampered by virtue of the fact that its road bed, bridges, rolling stock and other equipment has so deteriorated as to make it impossible to operate the railroad in a serviceable and economical manner, and

WHEREAS, as a result of this inferior equipment and casualties resulting from an impaired road bed it has become necessary for the railroad to maintain freight rates and passenger fares far in excess of a reasonable cost for such service and,

WHEREAS, it is the belief of your Memorialists that an examination should be made into the physical condition of the said road and its equipment and an inspection be made to determine an equitable rate for freight and passenger traffic, and

WHEREAS, there is vested in the management of the Alaska Railroad, power to increase the already exorbitant rates and fares, to discontinue or limit service, to the detriment of the prosperity and development of the large area served,

NOW, THEREFORE, We, your Memorialists pray that such an inspection be made at the earliest possible date by an impartial group of experts on rail traffic, maintenance operations and motive power, rolling stock and machinery for consideration in connection with requests for additional appropriations and an equitable adjustment of rates and fares.

AND YOUR MEMORIALIST WILL EVER PRAY.

Passed by the House, March 31, 1937.

Passed by the Senate, April 2, 1937.