

## HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 12

TO THE HONORABLE FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, TO THE HONORABLE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND TO THE HONORABLE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES, TO THE HONORABLE HAROLD L. ICKES, SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR, AND TO THE HONORABLE ANTHONY J. DIMOND, DELEGATE TO CONGRESS FROM ALASKA:

Your Memorialist, the Legislature of Alaska, respectfully represents:

WHEREAS, on March 25, 1935, the Honorable Secretary of the Interior, by Executive Order No. 905, promulgated regulations for the use of highways in Alaska and the operation of motor vehicles and Section 2 of which required the payment of a toll of freight being transported over the Richardson Highway; and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to the said Executive Order, toll as provided therein has been collected on freight crossing the McCarty Ferry on the Tanana River; and,

WHEREAS, the result of such toll and its collection, under the conditions mentioned in the said Executive Order, works an undue hardship upon the people of Interior Alaska and particularly those residing or operating in the vicinity of Fairbanks, Alaska, by compelling them to pay a higher rate for their commodities than otherwise would be necessary; and,

WHEREAS, the continuance of the collection of this toll, at the point mentioned, is discriminatory in that the only freight taxed in this way is that crossing the ferry since no toll or tax is charged on any freight between Valdez and the said ferry; and,

WHEREAS, the continuation of the policy of collecting tolls at this point permits the Alaska Railroad to charge and collect rates on freight handled between Tidewater and Fairbanks that are out of all proportion to what such freight rates should be if open competition were permitted by the use of the Richardson Highway; and,

WHEREAS, the Fairbanks Building Trades Union, a representative body of residents of Interior Alaska with headquarters at Fairbanks, Alaska, has presented a resolution to the members of the Legislature protesting against the condition that exists and particularly state;

1 That the freight and passenger tariff charged by the Alaska Railroad between Seward and Fairbanks is abnormally excessive and unjust.

2. That these rates retard the normal development of the Interior of Alaska and cause unnecessary hardship to residents thereof

5. That such residents have protested against these excessive rates but without success.

4. That the imposition of the toll on freight over the Richardson Highway has also been protested against.

5. That the Legislature appoint a Joint Committee to investigate the entire subject matter, both as to the management of the Alaska Railroad and the imposition of tolls over the Richardson Highway; and,

WHEREAS, the members of the Alaska Territorial Legislature are well acquainted with the conditions protested against by the Fairbanks Building Trades Union and agree that the conditions protested against should be remedied by the reduction of freight and passenger rates over the Alaska Railroad and the revocation of Executive Order No. 905 so that the collection of tolls over the Richardson Highway be discontinued.

NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialist respectfully prays that appropriate action be taken by the Officers of the United States Government to remedy the situation, as presented in this Memorial.

AND YOUR MEMORIALIST WILL EVER PRAY.

Passed by the House, March 5, 1941.

Passed by the Senate, March 10, 1941.

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