

## HOUSE MEMORIAL NO. 11

TO THE PRESIDENT AND CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,  
THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, THE PUBLIC  
ROADS ADMINISTRATION AND THE DELEGATE FROM  
ALASKA:

Your memorialist, the House of Representatives of the Territory of Alaska, in Nineteenth Session assembled, respectfully represents that:

WHEREAS, The Public Roads Administration has two sections of road known as the Tongass Highway leading to Ketchikan; the southerly section is 8 miles long and the northerly section is 16 miles long; both terminate at the City Limits of Ketchikan and are linked only by a single, inadequate and unsafe thoroughfare through Ketchikan, which thoroughfare consists of 15,000 linear feet of wooden trestle or narrow paved fills; and,

WHEREAS, This single thoroughfare is of temporary construction, requiring maintenance costs of \$50,000.00 per annum, has numerous bottlenecks of less than 20-foot widths and in a short time all temporary sections must be replaced in their entirety; and,

WHEREAS, Existing Governmental agencies, including the U. S. Coast Guard, the Alaska Communications System, and the U. S. Forest Service, have facilities located along the North and South Tongass Highways and are accessible to their own and City facilities and their City Offices only by vehicular traffic over the inadequate City thoroughfare described above; and,

WHEREAS, presently some 2,000 persons reside in some 550 homes along the North and South Tongass Highways, requiring a reliable and efficient transportation means to the City Center; and,

WHEREAS, Present industrial demands already tax to the utmost this inadequate link of the highway system and the advent to Ketchikan's suburban area of the largest new industry in South-eastern Alaska, namely the \$30,000,000.00 Ketchikan Pulp and Paper Company to be located six miles north of Ketchikan on North Tongass Highway, will double the use of Ketchikan streets by cars, busses and trucks to transport employees between home and work and for supplying the needs of the pulp plant, and will make totally

inadequate the above described thoroughfare through the City Limits of Ketchikan; and,

WHEREAS, The advent of the pulp industry will necessitate the construction of government and private housing located largely within the City of Ketchikan, all of which requires an adequate fire protection and which can be furnished by Ketchikan's efficient fire fighting facilities and personnel if a suitable and permanent thoroughfare for rapid transit of facilities and personnel were available; and,

WHEREAS, A minimum of 400 additional housing units will be constructed to shelter the families of the pulp mill employees, said families using the City medical, health, recreational, fuel, religious and educational facilities, as well as the shopping areas, all of which will entail further traffic on the already congested thoroughfare described; and,

WHEREAS, The only feasible routing, because of topographical features of the City of Ketchikan is over difficult terrain along a rocky and precipitous shoreline, requiring considerable portions of timber trestlework (the life of which does not exceed ten years with present traffic demands) and requiring for permanent construction considerable portions of concrete trestlework, fills, and retaining wall, with construction costs tentatively estimated at \$2,000,000.00, which is beyond the financial ability of a city of 10,000 population, let alone the present population of 6,000; and,

WHEREAS, The Organic Act limits taxation and bonded indebtedness to a point so low as to place this project entirely beyond the means of this City;

NOW, THEREFORE, your memorialist, the House of Representatives of the Nineteenth Session of the Alaska Legislature, urges that Congress appropriate \$2,000,000.00, or authorize allocation of such amount out of funds already appropriated, to enable survey and plans for concrete trestle construction and widening and hard surfacing of Water Street and Tongass Avenue along the waterfront of the City of Ketchikan, Alaska, and submit that such project would be an important adjunct to the development of Ketchikan and vicinity.

AND YOUR MEMORIALIST WILL EVER PRAY.

Passed by the House February 28, 1949.

Approved by the Governor March 4, 1949.