

AND YOUR MEMORIALIST WILL EVER PRAY.

Passed by the Senate March 17, 1949.

Approved by the Governor March 21, 1949.

SENATE MEMORIAL NO. 4

TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES, THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE, THE U. S. FOREST SERVICE, THE COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC ROADS AND THE PUBLIC ROADS ADMINISTRATION, AND TO THE DELEGATE FROM ALASKA:

Your Memorialist, the Legislature of the Territory of Alaska, in Nineteenth Regular Session assembled, respectfully submits:

WHEREAS, the Public Roads Administration has two sections of road known as the Tongass Highway leading to Ketchikan, the southern section being eight miles long and the northern section being sixteen miles long, which said two sections terminate at the city limits of Ketchikan and are linked only by a single, inadequate and unsafe thoroughfare through Ketchikan, said thoroughfare consisting 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 twenty feet in width and has many temporary sections which, within a short time, must be replaced in their entirety; and,

WHEREAS, existing governmental agencies, including the U. S. Coast Guard, Alaska Communications System, and the U. S. Forest Service, have facilities located along the north and south Tongass Highways, and personnel and vehicular equipment of these agencies must use the above described connecting link in traveling between their rural stations and their city offices; and,

WHEREAS, some 2,000 persons presently reside in approximately 550 homes along the north and south Tongass Highways, and require a reliable means of transportation to the city center; and,

WHEREAS, industrial demands at present tax this inadequate link of the highway system, and the advent to Ketchikan's suburban area of the largest new industry in Southeastern Alaska, namely, the \$30,000,000 pulp and paper mill to be located six miles north of Ketchikan on the North Tongass Highway, will double the traffic on Ketchikan streets, and will make the above described thoroughfare totally inadequate; and,

WHEREAS, the advent of the pulp industry will bring increased homes to Ketchikan, all of which require fire protection and necessitates the need for a permanent thoroughfare for rapid transit of personnel and equipment; and,

WHEREAS, the only feasible routing, because of topographical features, is over difficult terrain along a rocky shoreline, requiring for permanent construction considerable portions of concrete trestlework, fills and retaining walls, with construction costs tentatively estimated at \$2,000,000; 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 the city of Ketchikan;

NOW THEREFORE, your Memorialist, the Legislature of the Territory of Alaska, prays that the Congress of the United States appropriate special funds to assist the City of Ketchikan to accomplish this vitally needed project.

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Passed by the Senate March 3, 1949.

Approved by the Governor March 26, 1949.