

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 6

TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR, THE DIRECTOR OF OFFICE OF DEFENSE MOBILIZATION, THE DIRECTOR U. S. BUREAU OF MINES, THE DEFENSE MINERALS ADMINISTRATION, THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE, THE ALASKA ROAD COMMISSION, AND THE DELEGATE TO CONGRESS FROM ALASKA:

Your Memorialist, the Legislature of the Territory of Alaska, in Twenty-first Regular Session assembled, respectfully submits that:

WHEREAS, The Alaska Territorial Bureau of Mines and The U. S. Bureau of Mines have made intensive studies of The Defense Mineral Potential in the Seward Peninsula Area, and

WHEREAS, said studies have disclosed the presence of vast quantities of graphite, tin, antimony, sheelite, lead and undetermined quantities of even more valuable defense minerals in this area, and

WHEREAS, The United States Tin Corporation is now operating the only tin mine on the North American Continent at Lost River, Alaska, and

WHEREAS, the present high cost and irregularity of air transportation and the infrequency and high cost of boat transportation is endangering the success of this aforementioned tin Mine, thus placing the United States in a dangerous position, since the Bolivian supply of tin may be cut off at any time due to internal strife in that country, and

WHEREAS, a highway linking Lost River with the cities of Teller and Nome would alleviate these detrimental factors, at the same time bringing mining costs of graphite down to a point where production of the vast deposits of this mineral would be more practicable, and

WHEREAS, the continuation of the Nome-Council Road on up the Kougarok Railroad to its northernmost terminus, thence

eastward to join the Alcan Highway would open the major portion of other known defense mineral areas to the potential miners who know that without this outlet to the Alcan Highway the cost of production would be and has proven prohibitive, and

WHEREAS, the people of Alaska wish not only to develop its natural resources but to contribute to the greatest extent to the war effort against a potential enemy who lies within naked eye view of Alaska's West Coast, and

WHEREAS, the people of Northwestern Alaska are virtually without industry in an area of extreme plenty, and

WHEREAS, thousands of Federal and Territorial funds are spent each month on unemployment compensation and aid for the children of unemployed fathers, and

WHEREAS, the military advantages or disadvantages of highways in time of war are no greater nor less in this area than they have been or will be in thousands of areas where no such national wealth exists.

NOW, THEREFORE, your Memorialist, the Legislature of the Territory of Alaska respectfully urges the survey for and construction of a highway from Lost River, Alaska to the Alcan Highway; said highway to follow as nearly as practicable the areas of known defense mineral deposits, cities and villages en-route.

AND YOUR MEMORIALIST WILL EVER PRAY.

Passed by the House February 11, 1953.

Passed by the Senate February 20, 1953.