

## Senate Joint Memorials

---

### SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 2

TO THE HONORABLE DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA; THE UNITED STATES SENATE; THE UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES; THE HONORABLE DOUGLAS MCKAY, SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR; THE HONORABLE EZRA TAFT BENSON, SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE; THE HONORABLE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY; THE HONORABLE E. L. BARTLETT, DELEGATE TO CONGRESS FROM ALASKA; THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF, ALASKA COMMAND; THE COMMANDING GENERAL, UNITED STATES ARMY, ALASKA, AND THE DIRECTOR, BUREAU OF THE BUDGET, WASHINGTON, D. C.:

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

WHEREAS, the people of Alaska desire to attract new industry and new population to the Territory, to develop Alaska's economy to a high level, resulting in a higher standard of living and the creation of "Taxable Treasure" through utilization of natural resources; and

WHEREAS, Wood Canyon on the Copper River, the largest remaining undeveloped hydroelectric power site on the Pacific Coast of the United States, has been under investigation during the past few years; and

WHEREAS, development of the Wood Canyon power site would attract and permit the establishment of aluminum and/or other light metals industries and other large consumers of low-cost hydroelectric energy in the electrochemical and electro-metallurgical fields; and

WHEREAS, copper deposits in the region are not being worked during a period of serious copper shortages throughout the free world owing to the lack of surface transportation to Cordova, Alaska, a year-round, deep-water seaport; and

WHEREAS, the Katalla petroleum province, also adjacent to Cordova, cannot be explored adequately, or brought into actual production without construction of an access road link with Cordova; and

WHEREAS, the Bering River coal field, estimated to cover more than 50 square miles and to contain more than two billion tons of coal ranging in rank from sub-bituminous to anthracite, including unknown quantities of metallurgical-grade coking coal, remains undeveloped because no highway links the coal field with port facilities at Cordova; and

WHEREAS, it already has been demonstrated that construction of the Copper River Highway not only is feasible from the engineering standpoint, but also may be placed in the "low-cost" construction category since use of the abandoned Copper River and Northwestern Railroad bed, including several steel bridges which are in good condition, are involved; and

WHEREAS, the 109-mile right-of-way is the property of the United States Government; and

WHEREAS, construction of the Copper River Highway would provide an alternative route from the Gulf of Alaska to defense installations in Interior Alaska, important in the defense scheme of the Territory.

NOW THEREFORE, Your Memorialist, the Legislature of the Territory of Alaska, in Twenty-first Regular Session Assembled, respectfully urges that the construction program of the Copper River Highway, now under way on a piecemeal basis, be accelerated to permit development of resources of the region at the earliest possible moment.

AND YOUR MEMORIALIST WILL EVER PRAY.

Passed by the Senate February 28, 1953.

Passed by the House March 4, 1953.