

WHEREAS, the size of Alaska, comparatively speaking, warrants the leasing of larger tracts than in the other states of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the cost of drilling an exploratory well in Alaska is at least three times greater than a comparable test in the other states of the United States; and

WHEREAS, markets both in Japan and in the Pacific Northwest are waiting to purchase crude oil produced in Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the people of Alaska are in desperate need of a less expensive source of fuel;

NOW THEREFORE, Your Memorialist urgently requests and recommends that support be unstintingly given to any bill to amend the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 in which an increase in the acreage limitations regarding petroleum leases in the State of Alaska will be made.

Passed by the House February 8, 1960.

Passed by the Senate February 12, 1960.

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 38

To the Honorable Dennis Chavez, Chairman, Senate Public Works Committee; the Honorable Charles A. Buckley, Chairman, House Public Works Committee; the Honorable Harry F. Byrd, Chairman, Senate Finance Committee; the Honorable Wilbur D. Mills, Chairman, House Ways and Means Committee; the Honorable Carl Hayden, Chairman, Senate Appropriations Committee; the Honorable Clarence Cannon, Chairman, House Appropriations Committee; the Honorable E. L. Bartlett and the Honorable Ernest Gruening, Senators from Alaska; and the Honorable Ralph J. Rivers, Representative from Alaska:

Your Memorialist, the Legislature of the State of Alaska in First Legislature, Second Session assembled respectfully submits that:

WHEREAS, it is manifest that the primary need of this state is economic development; and

WHEREAS, this state is now undergoing a transition from an economy based on construction to one based on the exploitation of its natural resources; and

WHEREAS, every means available for the economic development of this state must be utilized and exploited; and

WHEREAS, it is common to the history of every country and every region within our own United States that economic development has inevitably and rapidly followed the creation of hydroelectric facilities and surplus electric power; and

WHEREAS, one of the greatest potential hydroelectric sites in the world is located at Rampart, Alaska, on the Yukon River, and the development of power facilities at that place would greatly enhance the future economy of this state; and

WHEREAS, the Corps of Engineers has estimated that it will cost \$1,460,000 to conduct the preliminary study necessary before any construction may be undertaken at Rampart and that it could use \$350,000 for the preliminary study in fiscal year 1961; and

WHEREAS, the federal budget presented by the President includes only \$100,000 for this study—an amount which if appropriated each year would require 15 long years just to complete the preliminary study; and

WHEREAS, time is money and to unnecessarily extend the time needed to complete the project is actually to waste, not save, money—both in the work on the project and in the eventual returns from the project;

NOW THEREFORE, Your Memorialist urges that the Congress increase the amount to be appropriated to the Corps of Engineers for the preliminary study for the proposed Rampart Dam from \$100,000 to the \$350,000 which the Corps of Engineers needs to accomplish its work for this year and thereby speed the economic development of this state and prevent the waste of 15 important years.

Passed by the House February 8, 1960.

Passed by the Senate February 11, 1960.