



Alaska State Legislature

1967

Source:

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SJR 10

JOINT RESOLUTION

Relating to the human and economic development of the Arctic Regions of Alaska.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

WHEREAS the successful economic development of the natural resources of the arctic regions of Alaska is recognized as being an essential and integral step toward full realization of northern Alaska's potential for self help in resolving the human and economic problems manifest in this area of Alaska, while at the same time contributing in great measure toward the improved economic base for all of Alaska; and

WHEREAS the Federal Field Committee for Development Planning in Alaska in its studies and recommendations places great emphasis on resource development and specifically designates mineral resource development and public access to certain northern mineral reserves as important considerations in the search for solutions to human and economic problems of northern Alaska; and

WHEREAS the state and federal agencies charged with the responsibilities for the educational training and health of the native people of Alaska view economic development as a great need throughout the state and particularly in the northern areas so as to provide the much needed opportunity for "on the job training" and the permanent basis for compensatory and continued employment for the steadily increasing native population of this area; and

WHEREAS the huge investment already made by government and private industry in support of northern exploratory and leasing activities, along with the accompanying return of millions of dollars in revenue to the state (\$12,000,000 in 1965) and the federal government, which has resulted from this activity, clearly demonstrates the extent of the potential

and feasibility of resource development in northern Alaska;
and

WHEREAS historically Alaskans have demonstrated tremendous energy and capability in the fields of mineral prospecting, mineral extraction and survival in the face of hardships because of extreme temperature change and inhospitable terrain and would participate fully in developing this area if inexpensive access to the area was available;
and

WHEREAS the byword among the many governmental agencies, representatives of industry and private individuals interested in promoting and supporting development within our great state has always been, "Improved and expanded Transportation";

BE IT RESOLVED that the State of Alaska by legislative action and with full administrative support will establish a development policy for the northern regions of Alaska that is based on a concept of constant improvement and expansion of all modes of transportation with particular emphasis on early development of access roads of sufficient quality so as to permit easy and inexpensive access by the public to the known mineralized areas of this region for the purpose of exploration, prospecting and movement of supplies and raw materials; that such access roads first be established as inexpensive and easily constructed resource development roads with the intent and knowledge that they will be the means for developing data for and will be the forerunner for the eventual construction of the much more expensive and time consuming permanent highway, railroad and pipeline facilities that must follow in the wake of the huge resources developments contemplated for this region of Alaska; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature will provide for the creation of a commission charged with the responsibility to conduct a comprehensive inquiry into the needs of northern Alaska and to report to the legislature and to the governor in an advisory capacity during the period required to implement and promote the development policy of the state with respect to the northern regions of Alaska; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Fifth State Legislature will provide the ways and means to implement this policy at the earliest possible date.

COPIES of this Resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Stewart L. Udall, Secretary of the Interior; the Honorable Allen Boyd, Secretary of Transportation; and to the Honorable E.L. Bartlett and the Honorable Ernest Gruening, U. S. Senators, and the Honorable Howard W. Pollock, U. S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.