



Alaska State Legislature

1968

Source:

SJR 37

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JOINT RESOLUTION

Expressing the Legislature's desire that the National Park Service reconsider its objections to the construction of a road through Katmai National Monument.

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

WHEREAS no adequate ferry boat terminus has been located on the Pacific side of the Alaska Peninsula which would be an inducement for the extension of the Kodiak ferry service to a prospective road across the peninsula; and

WHEREAS two splendid harbors, Geographic and Kukak are located within the Katmai National Monument; and

WHEREAS years of study by the Alaska Department of Highways and other agencies indicate that by far the most feasible and least expensive route across the Alaska Peninsula lies within Katmai National Monument; and

WHEREAS the National Park Service has expressed its adamant opposition to utilization of harbors and road construction in the monument; and

WHEREAS this opposition was based on the assertion that egress by road from either Kukak or Geographic Harbors was virtually an impossible engineering feat due to the precipitous nature of the surrounding terrain; and

WHEREAS a very feasible route has been located from the head of Geographic Harbor, thus negating this objection; and

WHEREAS the National Park Service has further objected with the contention that necessary road construction to connect Bristol Bay with the Pacific would destroy wilderness values within the monument; and

WHEREAS most of the additional road necessary would traverse lava flats and lunar type landscape largely devoid of wildlife, clear waters and forest cover normally associated with wilderness values; and

WHEREAS the National Park Service has already gouged a rough road through the major portion of the route which by contrast does have all the wilderness values listed above; and

WHEREAS this existing road starts within the confines of the monument and goes yet deeper therein rather than extending to the perimeter and thus allowing access to the public;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature requests the National Park Service to reconsider their objections in the light of recent studies and to work in harmony with the state to make the scenic wonders of the Katmai area accessible to the public and thus serve its intended purpose.

COPIES of this Resolution shall be sent to The Honorable Stewart L. Udall, Secretary, Department of the Interior; The Honorable George B. Hartzog, Jr., Director, National Park Service; The Honorable Clarence F. Pautzke, Commissioner, Fish and Wildlife Service; 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.