



Alaska State Legislature

1973

Source:

HCSSCR 29 am H

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 29

Relating to the construction of the Copper River Highway.

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

WHEREAS the completion of the Copper River and Northwest Railway in the early 1900's provided land transportation between the communities of Cordova, Chitina, and McCarthy; and

WHEREAS since the closure of the Copper River and Northwest Railway in 1939 the residents of these communities have had to rely on personal land transportation over the railway roadbed; and

WHEREAS the various responsible road agencies have periodically maintained all or portions of the subject highways for public use since closure of the railway; and

WHEREAS the United States of America is in need of developing mineral resources within the country to lessen dependence on foreign mineral sources, and the State of Alaska and particularly the areas that could be served by the proposed highway are rich in mineral resources; and

WHEREAS one of the major restraints to development of these mineral resources is lack of an adequate land transportation system, and present transportation means for seafood products from Cordova are more costly and time-consuming than a land transportation route via the subject and existing highways; and

WHEREAS tourism is one of the major sources of economic growth in the State of Alaska, and modern designed roadways can be built to provide motor vehicle access to the scenic areas

surrounding Cordova, Chitina and McCarthy with little or no damage to the scenic beauty; and

WHEREAS modern mining methods likewise permit the extraction of minerals without despoiling the natural surroundings, and land use controls by the United States Government and the State of Alaska will limit and control any man-made development in the area in order to maintain an optimum balance between development and nature;

BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the reconstruction of the Copper River Highway between Cordova and the Richardson Highway and the Chitina-McCarthy Highway in its entirety is of vital importance to the social and economic well-being of the State of Alaska; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor is respectfully requested to direct the Department of Highways to reconstruct the Copper River Highway between Cordova and the Richardson Highway and the Chitina-McCarthy Highway in its entirety; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the reconstruction of this road be a high priority.