

STATE OF ALASKA

THE LEGISLATURE

1980

Source

Legislative
Resolve No.

SCS SSHJR 66 am S

27



Relating to the upgrading of the White Pass & Yukon Route.

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

WHEREAS the White Pass & Yukon Route is a narrow gauge railroad which has, since the nineteenth century, linked Skagway to Whitehorse, Yukon Territory, Canada; and

WHEREAS the White Pass & Yukon Route is of worldwide historical interest and is in fact one of the few narrow gauge railroads still in existence; and

WHEREAS the White Pass & Yukon Route is one of North America's premier tourist attractions and is heavily used, contributing substantially to the economies of both Canada and the United States; and

WHEREAS the White Pass & Yukon Route provides direct employment for 159 Alaskans in Skagway and 54 Canadians in Whitehorse as well as many other jobs in indirect employment in both cities; and

WHEREAS the value of the payroll totals more than five and one-half million dollars in Skagway and an even higher amount in Whitehorse; and

WHEREAS the White Pass & Yukon Route has provided in the past, and could be called upon to provide in the future, a vital emergency link during times of national emergency; and

WHEREAS the White Pass & Yukon Route has never received a penny of subsidy from either of the national governments whose peoples it serves; and

WHEREAS, although facing severe economic difficulties at

the present time, the railroad is not requesting a subsidy;
and

WHEREAS the Canadian Transport Commission has developed a feasible plan of well-secured loans from the American and Canadian governments, designed to strengthen and stabilize the company;

BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the Canadian government is respectfully urged to provide a \$10,000,000 no-interest loan to the White Pass & Yukon Route to be used to upgrade the railroad, in cooperation with the United States government, as was recently proposed by the Canadian Transport Commission.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Right Honorable Pierre Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada; the Honorable Gilles Lamontagne, Minister of National Defence; the Honorable Jean-Luc Pepin, Minister of Transport; the Honorable John Munro, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development; the Honorable W. R. Bennett, Premier of the Province of British Columbia; and the Honorable Eric Nielson, Commissioner of the Yukon Territory.