

STATE OF ALASKA

THE LEGISLATURE

1980

Source

Legislative
Resolve No.

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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

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 United States government has been requested to provide a portion of the necessary financing, in cooperation with the Canadian government, to upgrade White Pass & Yukon Route services and equipment; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Mike Gravel, U.S. Senators, and the United States government are requested to support a proposal recently offered by the Canadian Transport Commission that the United States government provide a \$5,000,000 no-interest loan to the White Pass & Yukon Route to be used to upgrade the railroad.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Neil Goldschmidt, Secretary of the Department of Transportation; the Honorable Harold Brown, Secretary of the Department of Defense; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Mike Gravel, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.