

STATE OF ALASKA

THE LEGISLATURE

1981

Legislative
Resolve No.

Source

SCR 6 am H

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Relating to construction of a deep water port facility in Nome.

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

WHEREAS it is essential to the development of the City of Nome that a deep water port facility be constructed to eliminate exorbitant fees for the transportation of resources and goods; and

WHEREAS the City of Nome is in the process of constructing a port facility; and

WHEREAS in order to build the port facility a causeway must be constructed extending outward from the shoreline 3,600 feet; and

WHEREAS a permit from the United States Corps of Engineers must be obtained before the causeway can be constructed; and

WHEREAS the United States Bureau of Land Management has lodged an objection with the United States Corps of Engineers to granting a permit for the causeway unless the state waives claim to the additional submerged land which would result from constructing the causeway; and

WHEREAS the authority of the Corps of Engineers to deny a permit because of such an objection by the Bureau of Land Management is an issue in the litigation between the state and the United States over the ownership of submerged lands in the Beaufort Sea; and

WHEREAS the Reagan administration, and particularly Secretary of the Interior Watt, has indicated a willingness to review all pending disputes with the state in an effort to resolve them without litigation; and

WHEREAS failure to resolve the dispute in this case would result in litigation which would be costly and unnecessary for both the state and Nome; and

WHEREAS the residents of the Nome area will continue to pay exorbitant fees for transportation of goods if construction of the deep water port facility is delayed; and

WHEREAS failure to complete construction of the deep water port would result in the loss of economic opportunity, a delay in developing natural resources, and loss of jobs in an area with unemployment as high as 80 percent;

BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the Governor is respectfully requested to direct the Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Law immediately to begin negotiations with the Reagan Administration, and particularly the Department of the Interior, to get the Bureau of Land Management to lift its objection to the United States Corps of Engineers granting the permit for constructing the causeway so that the deep water port facility in Nome can be constructed.