

STATE OF ALASKA

THE LEGISLATURE

1981

Legislative
Resolve No.

Source

CSSJR 18(SA)

38



Requesting the President to direct the creation of a utility corridor for the extension of the Alaska Railroad to the Canadian border.

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

WHEREAS it is essential that an international transportation link be developed if Alaska is ever to attain its full potential; and

WHEREAS, traditionally, railroad systems have been in the forefront of the development of new territories; and

WHEREAS the Yukon Territory and British Columbia are in the same position as Alaska in that transportation systems are needed to aid further development; and

WHEREAS it would seem logical and proper that the Alaska Railroad should connect with the Canadian railway system at some strategically located point; and

WHEREAS such a transportation linkup would be of mutual benefit to Alaska, the United States, and Canada; and

WHEREAS members of Canadian governments have expressed a willingness for talks concerning an international rail connection; and

WHEREAS President Reagan spoke many times during his campaign of using the vast storehouse of vital energy resources in Alaska; and

WHEREAS the Alaska Railroad has in its enabling Act, The Alaska Railroad Act (43 U.S.C. 975 - 975(g)), authority to extend its track up to 1,000 miles in length; and

WHEREAS sec. 501(a) of P.L. 94-579 of October 21, 1976,

authorizes the establishment of rights-of-way by the Secretary of the Interior over public domain land; and

WHEREAS the President, under authority granted to him by the Alaska Railroad Act of 1914, could eliminate a vast amount of red tape, delay, and excessive cost to government;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the President of the United States to direct the Secretary of the Interior to create a utility corridor for the extension of the Alaska Railroad to the Canadian border as described in Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities Project X20089.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Ronald Reagan, President of the United States; the Honorable James G. Watt, Secretary of the Interior; the Honorable Drew Lewis, Secretary of Transportation; the Honorable Robert Burford, Director-Designate of the Bureau of Land Management; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.