

STATE OF ALASKA

THE LEGISLATURE

1989

Source

SCS HCR 6 (ITT)

Legislative
Resolve No.

37



Supporting the development of coal mining at Wishbone Hill.

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

WHEREAS the economies of communities in Southcentral Alaska have been slowed in recent years due to a variety of factors; and

WHEREAS Alaska's coal reserves are the greatest of any state, yet remain largely undeveloped and untapped; and

WHEREAS Alaska has long sought to encourage trade with its neighbors on the Pacific Rim; and

WHEREAS Idemitsu Alaska, Inc., the subsidiary of a large Japanese energy firm, Idemitsu Kosan, Ltd., owns eight state coal leases in the Wishbone Hill district and has immediate plans to mine the coal and export it to Japan; and

WHEREAS the Wishbone Hill district has been the site of extensive coal mining activity over the last 70 years; and

WHEREAS Idemitsu Alaska, Inc., anticipates an employment base of 180 full-time jobs with an annual payroll of approximately \$10,000,000 for the mine itself; and

WHEREAS the State of Alaska, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, the Alaska Railroad, and the City of Seward would each benefit from increased revenue and employment from royalties, property taxes, indirect effects on transportation, and the other services required by an operating mine; and

WHEREAS the Alaska Railroad is the principal transportation link from Wishbone Hill to tidewater; and

WHEREAS one of the purposes of the Alaska Railroad is

support for the development of Alaska's natural resources; and

WHEREAS the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority has been effective in promoting resource development projects similar to the Wishbone Hill coal mine;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Sixteenth Alaska State Legislature strongly supports the development of Alaska's natural resources, including the coal deposits at Wishbone Hill; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature strongly urges that the state agencies working on this project coordinate their actions and do their utmost to take whatever prudent action is necessary to bring this project into operation; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska Railroad is encouraged to support the development of coal mining at Wishbone Hill to the greatest extent allowed under the findings and purposes of the Alaska Railroad Corporation Act; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature encourages the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority to do everything possible to support and promote the development of coal mining at Wishbone Hill.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to Mark S. Hickey, commissioner of transportation and public facilities; to Lennie Boston-Gorsuch, commissioner of natural resources; to Dennis D. Kelso, commissioner of environmental conservation; Don W. Collinsworth, commissioner of fish and game; and to Frank Turpin, president and chief executive officer of the Alaska Railroad Corporation.