

STATE OF ALASKA

THE LEGISLATURE

1989

Source

CSSJR 16 (ITT)

Legislative
Resolve No.

42



Relating to the acquisition, preservation, and interpretation of the historic Kennecott Mine by the National Park Service in the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park.

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

WHEREAS the state tourist industry is looking for new destinations and experiences to meet the demand made by an increased number of visitors to the state; and

WHEREAS the Kennecott Mine site is a historic resource of national significance and has been designated a national historic landmark; and

WHEREAS it would benefit the state's economy to establish tourist destinations that encourage tourists to travel throughout the state on its highway system; and

WHEREAS the state wants to celebrate in 1992 the 50th anniversary of the completion of the Alaska Highway by adding tourist destinations that are accessible by travelers using the Alaska Highway; and

WHEREAS the structures at the Kennecott Mine site are becoming a popular destination for tourists; and

WHEREAS the structures are deteriorating rapidly and substantial investment is necessary if they are to be stabilized and preserved; and

WHEREAS the Alaska Historical Society, the Alaska Association for Historic Preservation, the Alaska office of history and archeology in the Department of Natural Resources, and the Alaska division of tourism in the Department of Commerce and Economic Development have all expressed support for the acquisition by the National Park Service of the Kennecott Mine site property as part of the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park, and for

the preservation and interpretation of the site by the National Park Service; and

WHEREAS the structures at the Kennecott Mine site are located on private property in the center of the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park; and

WHEREAS the owners of the Kennecott Mine site property have offered a partial donation and sale of their property to the National Park Service; and

WHEREAS the state understands that the United States Department of the Interior is considering the acquisition and preservation of the Kennecott Mine site property by the National Park Service; and

WHEREAS local residents and the McCarthy-Kennecott Historical Museum support the acquisition and preservation of the Kennecott Mine site property by the National Park Service as a historic site and visitor attraction;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature supports the acquisition and preservation of the Kennecott Mine site property by the National Park Service as a visitor attraction in the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park, and the establishment of an interpretation facility at the site by the National Park Service.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Manuel Lujan, Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior; 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.