

# STATE OF ALASKA

## THE LEGISLATURE

1990

Source

HJR 87

Legislative  
Resolve No.

77



Requesting certain work on the Wrangell Narrows by the United States Army Corps of Engineers.

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

WHEREAS the Wrangell Narrows, located south of Petersburg, Alaska, is an important part of the transportation network of Alaska; and

WHEREAS the Alaska State Legislature recognizes the importance and value of the Wrangell Narrows as a marine transportation link to both Southeast Alaska and the entire United States; and

WHEREAS the Alaska marine highway system, an integral part of the state's highways, uses the Wrangell Narrows extensively throughout the year, including 480 to 490 Alaska ferry trips a year; and

WHEREAS the Wrangell Narrows also conveys numerous commercial vessels of all sizes throughout the year, including cruise ships, tankers, fishing vessels, and tugs with barges and rafts; and

WHEREAS the tanker Frank H. Brown hit a submerged reef in the Wrangell Narrows on January 20, 1990, and spilled 57,000 gallons of unleaded gasoline in the waterway; and

WHEREAS there was a grounding of the U. S. Coast Guard buoy tender Planetree on January 25, 1990; and

WHEREAS the ongoing survey responsibility of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers only covers fragments of the Wrangell Narrows, and the last survey done on some of those fragments took from 1983 to 1988; and

WHEREAS the present depth of the Wrangell Narrows channel is set at 24 feet;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests President George Bush to authorize the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to perform an immediate and comprehensive condition survey of the entire length of the Wrangell Narrows with the goal of identifying hazards to navigation, water current impediments, and a safe estimated depth needed for the channel and for all of the Wrangell Narrows; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to perform a survey of the Wrangell Narrows, incorporating complete hydrostatic plots, to ascertain a speed limit sufficient to allow safe passage of large vessels without causing major erosion along the shoreline.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable George Bush, President of the United States; Lieutenant General Henry J. Hatch, Chief of Engineers and Commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; the Honorable Quentin N. Burdick, Chair of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works; the Honorable Ernest F. Hollings, Chair of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation; the Honorable Walter B. Jones, Chair of the House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries; 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.