

STATE OF ALASKA  
THE LEGISLATURE

1998

Source  
SCS CSHJR 56(CRA)

Legislative  
Resolve No.  
73



Relating to yttrium mining and transfer of the linear induction motor research vehicle to Alaska.

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

**WHEREAS** yttrium bearing and other rare earth minerals have been identified in large quantities on Prince of Wales Island; and

**WHEREAS** the Prince of Wales deposits are the only known deposits of yttrium bearing minerals in North America; and

**WHEREAS**, based on the present world market, one pound of 99.9999 pure yttrium has a market value of \$320,000; and

**WHEREAS** the presence of yttrium in the state offers a potential economic development opportunity on Prince of Wales Island and elsewhere in Alaska in the areas of mining, refining, research, and manufacturing; and

**WHEREAS** the local availability of refined yttrium metal could promote the establishment of a major research and manufacturing facility for yttrium-based products on Prince of Wales Island or elsewhere in Alaska, resulting in new career opportunities for Alaskans; and

**WHEREAS** products manufactured using yttrium and technology involving yttrium include powerful frictionless motors and magnetic levitation equipment for use in transportation systems, superconducting fault limiters, electromagnetic mass launchers, and yttrium coated tapes and wire; yttrium wire can also be used in medical equipment, including field magnets in MRI-scanning machines; and

**WHEREAS** the firm of Power Superconductor Applications Corporation, based in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, has expressed an interest in working with the state to establish manufacturing and research facilities in Alaska using the local workforce and local facilities; and

**WHEREAS** Power Superconductor Applications Corporation has requested assistance from the state in securing use of a 30-ton linear induction motor research vehicle (LIMRV) currently in storage by the Federal Railroad Administration; and

**WHEREAS** the LIMRV is expected to become part of a four-year based retrofit and research project involving yttrium, yttrium products, and yttrium technology; and

**WHEREAS** the retrofit and research project is expected to start in 1998 and could lead to the establishment of a new \$3,100,000 yttrium and yttrium products manufacturing facility on Prince of Wales Island or elsewhere in Alaska, employing 55 Alaskans; once transfer of the LIMRV to the State of Alaska takes place, 15 new jobs for Alaskans are expected to be established immediately; and

**WHEREAS** requests for funding to establish new yttrium industrial and research sectors on Prince of Wales Island or elsewhere in Alaska are not currently being made by the state; and

**WHEREAS** current economic opportunities on Prince of Wales Island and throughout Alaska have significantly decreased due to recent declines in the timber and fishing industries;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature would welcome a transfer of the linear induction motor research vehicle (LIMRV) to the state as a federal contribution to establishment of a new industrial and research sector located in Alaska; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the Federal Railroad Administration, the Alaska Congressional delegation, and the Governor to facilitate transfer of the LIMRV to Alaska for a period of at least four years.

**COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to Ms. Jolene M. Molitoris, Administrator,

Federal Railroad Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation; 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.