

STATE OF ALASKA THE LEGISLATURE

2019

Source
HJR 12

Legislative
Resolve No.
10



Supporting the completion of the Northern Rail Extension; supporting the increase in defensive capabilities at Fort Greely, Alaska; and encouraging the development of critical Arctic infrastructure.

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

WHEREAS Alaska is the only state in the United States that borders the Arctic Ocean; and

WHEREAS the United States Department of Defense has expanded the anti-ballistic missile facility at Fort Greely, Alaska; and

WHEREAS the United States Army has developed new training range areas to support the Stryker Brigade; and

WHEREAS Fort Greely is the only military base that is not currently connected to the railroad system in the state; and

WHEREAS a railroad is well suited to provide the transportation support required to sustain military operations; and

WHEREAS a cost-efficient transportation system would benefit the world-class

mining operations located near Delta Junction and projected mining operations near Tetlin;
and

WHEREAS a cost-efficient transportation system would benefit the agricultural industry in the Delta Junction area, allowing the agricultural industry to become more cost-efficient and competitive and increasing its ability to expand; and

WHEREAS a railroad would provide a cost-efficient method of transporting goods and services for both mining and agricultural activities in the Delta Junction region; and

WHEREAS the Alaska Railroad system has the capacity to provide efficient transportation services for heavy cargo and large quantities of supplies to the Delta Junction region from the ports of Seward, Whittier, and Anchorage and to economically deliver mining and agricultural products from the region to market; and

WHEREAS the extension of the Alaska Railroad to Delta Junction and Fort Greely is consistent with the long-term goals of the Alaska Railroad Corporation and the State of Alaska to extend rail service to the contiguous United States; and

WHEREAS the Alaska Railroad has already completed phase 1 of the Northern Rail Extension project by crossing the Tanana River, which brings the rail line within 70 miles of Delta Junction and Fort Greely;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature supports the completion of the Northern Rail Extension; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature recognizes the urgency of developing key infrastructure and defense capabilities, considering the investments other nations have committed to the region as well as the increased amount of time needed for those types of projects because of the extreme weather of the region; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature urges the Alaska delegation in Congress to pursue the completion of the Northern Rail Extension for the purpose of securing the critical infrastructure that is necessary to improve defense capabilities in the region.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Donald J. Trump, President of the United States; the Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Chuck Grassley, President pro tempore of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Patrick M. Shanahan, Acting United States Secretary of Defense; the Honorable

David Bernhardt, United States Secretary of the Interior; the Honorable Elaine L. Chao, United States Secretary of Transportation; and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Dan Sullivan, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.