

STATE OF ALASKA THE LEGISLATURE

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Legislative
Resolve No.
7



Urging the United States to issue a Presidential permit authorizing a railroad crossing of the Alaska-Canada border from state land into Yukon, Canada; and supporting cooperation between the United States and Canada to establish a public-private partnership for construction of a railroad from Alberta, Canada, to the state that would connect the Alaska Railroad to the North American railroad system.

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

WHEREAS, in 1914, the United States Congress passed legislation authorizing construction of up to 1,000 miles of railroad in the Territory of Alaska to connect coastal and interior regions of the territory and support mineral and agricultural development, freight and passenger service, and military operations, yet little more than 500 miles of the Alaska Railroad have been built under both federal and state governments; and

WHEREAS, in 2004, the Twenty-Third Alaska State Legislature authorized the Alaska Railroad Corporation, under AS 42.40.460(a), to "delineate a proposed transportation corridor between the existing railroad utility corridor of the Alaska Railroad and the border of Alaska and Canada," which would be approximately 250 miles, and, under AS 42.40.465(a),

to "investigate extension of the Alaska Railroad from the border of Alaska and Canada to connect with the North American railroad system," which would be approximately 1,200 additional miles; and

WHEREAS previous state studies, private estimates, and a 2016 Van Horne Institute study financed by the government of Alberta, Canada, indicate that a railroad connecting Alberta to the state could attract enough traffic to be economically viable despite capital costs estimated at over \$17,000,000,000; and

WHEREAS the Alaska Railroad Corporation could enter into public-private partnerships to support financing, construction, and operation of a railroad connecting the Alaska Railroad to the North American railroad system; and

WHEREAS the state would not be required to provide funding for a railroad project connecting Alberta, Canada, to the state; and

WHEREAS, in 1968, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed Executive Order 11423, as amended, requiring a Presidential permit to be granted before infrastructure connecting the United States with a foreign country is constructed and operated; and

WHEREAS Presidential permission to construct and operate a railroad from Alberta, Canada, to the state, with the cooperation of the Alaska Railroad Corporation, is sought to reduce regulatory risk and to facilitate raising the necessary global risk capital for the engineering, permitting, construction, and operation of a railroad from Alberta to the state; and

WHEREAS the United States and the state have long enjoyed and relied on peaceful cooperation with Canada with respect to the railroad over White Pass, from Skagway into Yukon, Canada, and roads connecting the state to Canada and the contiguous United States, including the Taylor Highway, the Alaska Highway, the Haines Highway, the South Klondike Highway, and the Cassiar Highway; and

WHEREAS Indigenous peoples in Canada, Alaska Natives, and residents of communities along the route of the proposed railroad connecting Alberta, Canada, to the state would have the opportunity to be involved, to comment on the project, and to understand the purpose and location of the route; and

WHEREAS some of the state's Pacific ports could contribute to faster and more efficient shipping of goods in and out of North America if a railroad connecting Alberta,

Canada, to the state were constructed; and

WHEREAS a railroad connecting Alberta, Canada, to the state would further the security and global competitive economic positions of the United States and Canada and enable new economic opportunities for the state and Yukon, British Columbia, and Alberta, Canada;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States to issue a Presidential permit allowing a railroad crossing of the Alaska-Canada border from state land into Yukon, Canada; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States to issue a Presidential permit allowing a railroad connecting Alberta, Canada, to the state as soon as practicable to reduce any regulatory risk for the project; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature supports the highest safety and environmental standards for the construction and operation of railroads connecting the state to Canada; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature supports participation by Indigenous peoples in Canada, Alaska Natives, and residents of communities along the route of proposed railroads connecting the state to Canada in the development of the project; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature welcomes a public-private partnership with the Alaska Railroad Corporation to facilitate global capital investment in the development of a railroad connecting Alberta, Canada, to the state, and encourages cooperation between the United States and Canada, specifically between the state, and Yukon, British Columbia, and Alberta, Canada, to speed the development of the project; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature welcomes the participation of global investors, state residents, Alaska Native corporations, state tribal entities, and Indigenous peoples in Canada subject to each investor's due diligence, to help develop a railroad connecting the state to Canada.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Donald J. Trump, President of the United States; the Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada; the Honorable Mike Pompeo, United States Secretary of State; the Honourable David MacNaughton, Ambassador of Canada to the United States; the Honourable Chrystia

Freeland, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Canada; the Honourable Marc Garneau, Minister of Transport, Canada; the Honourable Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations, Canada; the Honourable Dominic LeBlanc, Minister of Intergovernmental and Northern Affairs and Internal Trade, Canada; the Honorable Elaine L. Chao, United States Secretary of Transportation; the Honorable Rick Perry, United States Secretary of Energy; the Honorable Robert E. Lighthizer, United States Trade Representative; the Honorable David Bernhardt, United States Secretary of the Interior; the Honorable Kevin McAleenan, Acting United States Secretary of Homeland Security; the Honorable Kyle K. Hipsley, Commissioner for the United States, International Boundary Commission; the Honourable Jean Gagnon, Commissioner for Canada, International Boundary Commission; the Honorable Ann D. Begeman, Chair, United States Surface Transportation Board; the Honourable Scott Streiner, Chief Executive Officer and Chair, Canadian Transportation Agency; the Honorable Kelly Craft, United States Ambassador to Canada; the Honourable Larry Bagnell, Member of the House of Commons of Canada representing Yukon; the Honourable Sandy Silver, Premier of Yukon, Canada; the Honourable John Horgan, Premier of British Columbia, Canada; the Honourable Jason Kenney, Premier of Alberta, Canada; 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.