

HOUSE TRANSPORTATION STANDING COMMITTEE

March 18, 1998

1:10 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Representative William K. (Bill) Williams, Chairman  
Representative John Cowdery  
Representative Bill Hudson  
Representative Jerry Sanders  
Representative Kim Elton  
Representative Albert Kookesh

MEMBERS ABSENT

Representative Beverly Masek, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE CALENDAR

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 63

Relating to support for Mitchell Field Adak airport.

- MOVED HJR 63 OUT OF COMMITTEE

SENATE BILL NO. 211

"An Act renaming the Gravina Veterans' Memorial Bridge as the Ralph M. Bartholomew Veterans' Memorial Bridge."

- MOVED SB 211 OUT OF COMMITTEE

HOUSE BILL NO. 412

"An Act providing for the transfer of certain land to the City of Whittier; and providing for an effective date."

- MOVED HB 412 OUT OF COMMITTEE

(\* First public hearing)

PREVIOUS ACTION

BILL: HJR 63

SHORT TITLE: ADAK AIRPORT

SPONSOR(S): REPRESENTATIVES(S) MOSES

Jrn-Date	Jrn-Page	Action
02/18/98	2351	(H) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRAL(S)
02/18/98	2352	(H) MLV, TRANSPORTATION
03/10/98		(H) MLV AT 4:30 PM CAPITOL ROOM 124
03/10/98		(H) MINUTE(MLV)
03/11/98	2598	(H) MLV RPT 6DP
03/11/98	2598	(H) DP: JOULE, RYAN, MULDER, MASEK, FOSTER
03/11/98	2598	(H) NICHOLIA
03/11/98	2598	(H) ZERO FISCAL NOTE (MLV)
03/18/98		(H) TRA AT 1:00 PM CAPITOL 17
03/19/98	2658	(H) TRA RPT 6DP
03/19/98	2658	(H) DP: HUDSON, ELTON, KOOKESH, SANDERS,
03/19/98	2658	(H) COWDERY, WILLIAMS
03/19/98	2658	(H) ZERO FISCAL NOTE (H.MVA) 3/11/98
03/19/98	2658	(H) REFERRED TO RULES

BILL: SB 211

SHORT TITLE: RENAMING VET MEM BRIDGE IN KETCHIKAN  
SPONSOR(S): SENATOR(S) TAYLOR, Mackie, Leman, Duncan;  
REPRESENTATIVE(S) Williams

Jrn-Date	Jrn-Page	Action
01/12/98	2165	(S) PREFILE RELEASED 1/2/98
01/12/98	2165	(S) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRAL(S)
01/12/98	2165	(S) TRANSPORTATION
01/29/98		(S) TRA AT 1:30 PM BUTROVICH ROOM 205
01/29/98		(S) MINUTE(TRA)
01/30/98		(S) MINUTE(RLS)
01/30/98	2356	(S) TRA RPT 4DP
01/30/98	2356	(S) DP: WARD, WILKEN, GREEN, LINCOLN
01/30/98	2356	(S) ZERO FISCAL NOTE (DOT)
02/04/98	2391	(S) RULES TO CALENDAR 2/4/98
02/04/98	2393	(S) READ THE SECOND TIME
02/04/98	2393	(S) ADVANCED TO THIRD READING UNAN CONSENT
02/04/98	2393	(S) READ THE THIRD TIME SB 211
02/04/98	2393	(S) COSPONSOR(S): LEMAN, DUNCAN
02/04/98	2394	(S) PASSED Y18 N- E2
02/04/98	2396	(S) TRANSMITTED TO (H)
02/06/98	2230	(H) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRAL(S)
02/06/98	2230	(H) MLV, TRANSPORTATION
02/06/98	2249	(H) CROSS SPONSOR(S): WILLIAMS
03/10/98		(H) MLV AT 4:30 PM CAPITOL ROOM 124
03/10/98		(H) MINUTE(MLV)
03/11/98	2598	(H) MLV RPT 5DP
03/11/98	2598	(H) DP: JOULE, MULDER, MASEK, FOSTER,
03/11/98	2598	(H) NICHOLIA
03/11/98	2598	(H) SENATE ZERO FISCAL NOTE (DOT) 1/30/98
03/18/98		(H) TRA AT 1:00 PM CAPITOL 17
03/19/98	2661	(H) TRA RPT 6DP
03/19/98	2662	(H) DP: HUDSON, ELTON, KOOKESH, SANDERS,
03/19/98	2662	(H) COWDERY, WILLIAMS
03/19/98	2662	(H) SENATE ZERO FISCAL NOTE (DOT) 1/30/98
03/19/98	2662	(H) REFERRED TO RULES

BILL: HB 412

SHORT TITLE: TRANSFER RAILROAD LAND TO WHITTIER  
SPONSOR(S): REPRESENTATIVES(S) COWDERY, Sanders, Ryan, Ivan,  
Hudson, Foster, Martin, Kohring

Jrn-Date	Jrn-Page	Action
02/16/98	2331	(H) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRAL(S)
02/16/98	2331	(H) TRANSPORTATION, FINANCE
02/20/98	2391	(H) COSPONSOR(S): SANDERS, RYAN, IVAN,
02/20/98	2391	(H) HUDSON
02/23/98	2409	(H) COSPONSOR(S): FOSTER, MARTIN
03/04/98		(H) TRA AT 1:00 PM CAPITOL 17
03/04/98	2523	(H) COSPONSOR(S): KOHRING
03/09/98		(H) TRA AT 1:00 PM CAPITOL 17
03/09/98		(H) MINUTE(TRA)
03/18/98		(H) TRA AT 1:00 PM CAPITOL 17
03/19/98	2660	(H) TRA RPT 3DP 2NR
03/19/98	2660	(H) DP: SANDERS, COWDERY, WILLIAMS;
03/19/98	2660	(H) NR: HUDSON, ELTON
03/19/98	2660	(H) FISCAL NOTE (DNR)
03/19/98	2660	(H) ZERO FISCAL NOTE (DOT)
03/19/98	2660	(H) REFERRED TO FINANCE

WITNESS REGISTER

REPRESENTATIVE CARL MOSES  
Alaska State Legislature

Capitol Building, Room 521  
Juneau, Alaska 99801  
Telephone: (907) 465-4451  
POSITION STATEMENT: Sponsor of HJR 63.

DAVE JENSEN, Vice President  
Reeve Aleutian Airways; Vice Chairman  
Adak Reuse Corporation  
1835M Mineria Way  
Anchorage, Alaska  
Telephone: (907) 522-6098  
POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in support of HJR 63.

VINCE TUTIAKOFF, SR., Manager  
Adak Reuse Corporation; Chairman  
Aleut Corporation; Member  
Adak Community Council  
FPO AP 96506  
PSC 486 Adak  
Adak, Alaska 99685  
Telephone: (907) 592-4243  
POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in support of HJR 63.

AGAFON KRUKOFF, JR., Chairman  
Adak Community Council  
PSC 486 P.O. Box 1933  
Intra Alaska Zone 1  
PFP AP 96506  
Adak, Alaska 99695  
Telephone: (Not provided)  
POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in support of HJR 63.

PETE ECKLUND, Legislative Assistant  
to Representative Bill Williams  
Alaska State Legislature  
Capitol Building, Room 424  
Juneau, Alaska 99801  
Telephone: (907) 465-3424  
POSITION STATEMENT: Read the sponsor statement on SB 211 on behalf  
of Senator Robin Taylor.

JOHN "JACK" SHAY, Mayor  
Ketchikan Gateway Borough  
344 Front Street  
Ketchikan, Alaska 99901  
Telephone: (907) 225-7529  
POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in support of SB 211.

#### ACTION NARRATIVE

TAPE 98-14, SIDE A  
Number 0001

CHAIRMAN WILLIAM K. (BILL) WILLIAMS called the House Transportation Standing Committee meeting to order at 1:10 p.m. Members present at the call to order were Representatives Williams, Cowdery, Hudson, and Elton. Representatives Kookesh joined the meeting at 1:13 p.m. and Representative Sanders joined the meeting at 1:21 p.m.

HJR 63 - ADAK AIRPORT

Number 0056

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS announced the first order of business would be

HJR 63, "Relating to support for Mitchell Field Adak airport."

Number 0127

REPRESENTATIVE CARL MOSES, sponsor of HJR 63, came before the committee. He explained that he submitted the resolution to try and get some federal money to keep the Adak Airport operational. He pointed that the Navy will be moving out in September, 1998. He informed that there are a number of different federal agencies that have a need for the airport. The different federal agencies don't want to affect their budgets so they're not prepared to commit monies for it, so he believes the resolution is the route to go. Representative Moses stated that it is imperative that the airport is kept open. It is very essential to most of the international flights going to the Orient in case of an emergency. He stated it is his understanding that without the airport, twin engine airplanes can't make that route. The airport is very important for service in Atka, which is about 90 miles from the airport. Representative Moses urged the committee to move the legislation

Number 0245

REPRESENTATIVE JOHN COWDERY asked what the length of the runway is.

REPRESENTATIVE MOSES responded 7,800 feet.

REPRESENTATIVE COWDERY asked if they have fuel facilities there.

REPRESENTATIVE MOSES stated he believes there is 20 million gallons of fuel.

REPRESENTATIVE COWDERY asked if a lot of foreign fishing fleets are using the facility for fuel and products.

Number 0293

REPRESENTATIVE MOSES responded that they are starting to transfer products and they are transferring crews there. He noted it is also in very close proximity to the Russian fishing industry. He referred to Sakhalin and said it is very important internationally in that respect. He stated that it is going to be ideal for a fresh fish market in the Orient.

Number 0358

DAVE JENSEN, Vice President, Reeve Aleutian Airways; Vice Chairman Adak Reuse Corporation, came before the committee to testify in support of HJR 63. He noted he has been with Reeve Aleutian Airways for 18 years. Reeve Aleutian Airways has been flying to Adak since World War II. Mr. Jensen informed the committee that he has been involved with the Adak Reuse Corporation for the last two years on the evolution of how to get Adak from a military base to a commercial reuse. He stated that Reeve Aleutian Airways needs the airfield as they fly to Russia once a week. The airfield at Adak will have a commercial reuse. There are lots of jobs at Adak in fisheries. There are fuel and food sales. There are also other types of sales to Russia, particularly, Petro Pavilosk (ph) and Alaska. Mr. Jensen stated the airfield is important from a federal standpoint and there is state interest in the Aleutians. To close that airfield would preclude access to the Aleutians.

MR. JENSEN stated that Adak Reuse Corporation's standpoint is that there are a lot of good things on the horizon. He said transient aircrafts use the airport. He said large airplanes can land there in an emergency situation. He pointed out that the airfield needs

to be open for search and rescue operations. Mr. Jensen urged that the resolution be passed.

REPRESENTATIVE COWDERY questioned who supplies the fuel.

MR. JENSEN stated that the fuel that is currently in storage belongs to Defense Fuel Procurement Agency, Department of Defense. He said he hopes it evolves over to a private fueller.

Number 0620

VINCE TUTIAKOFF, SR., Manager, Adak Reuse Corporation; Chairman, Aleut Corporation; Member, Adak Community Council, testified via teleconference from Adak. He said it is important that the resolution passes. Mr. Tutiakoff stated that he has participated in rescues at sea in the Adak area. He said there is a critical need for a continued operation of the airport. Mr. Tutiakoff indicated Atka is reliant on Adak as there have been four medical evacuations from Atka to Adak.

Number 0907

REPRESENTATIVE BILL HUDSON questioned what the annual estimated costs to the federal government would be for maintenance of the airstrip.

MR. TUTIAKOFF stated he would estimate \$600,000 to \$650,000 a year. There are two runways that are 7,000 feet; one running north to south and one running northeast to southwest.

Number 0818

AGAFON KRUKOFF, JR., Chairman, Adak Community Council, testified via teleconference from Adak. He informed the committee that last week he witnessed a lot of activity at the harbor where some factory trawlers came in to do a transshipment and dealt with foreign trappers. It was a nice feeling to watch things begin to happen in Adak. He said that Adak is currently in the process of submitting a petition for incorporation as a second class city which has been signed by at least 60 percent of the local voters. Mr. Krukoff urged the committee to pass the resolution.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS indicated there were no further witnesses to testify.

Number 0739

REPRESENTATIVE HUDSON moved and asked unanimous consent to move HJR 63 out of committee with individual recommendations and with the attached zero fiscal note. There being no objection, HJR 63 moved out of the House Transportation Standing Committee.

SB 211 - RENAMING VET MEM BRIDGE IN KETCHIKAN

Number 0953

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS announced the committee would hear SB 211, "An Act renaming the Gravina Veterans' Memorial Bridge as the Ralph M. Bartholomew Veterans' Memorial Bridge," sponsored by Senator Taylor.

Number 0981

PETE ECKLUND, Legislative Assistant to Representative Bill Williams, Alaska State Legislature, read the following statement

into the record on behalf of Senator Taylor:

"In 1989, as Senate Bill 37 was moving through the Alaska State House of Representatives, an amendment was added designating the bridge to be built across the Tongass Narrows at Ketchikan as the Gravina Veterans' Memorial Bridge.

"This amendment was offered at the suggestion of Ralph Bartholomew, a life-long resident of Ketchikan, a noted civic leader, and a veteran of World War II. Ralph was also the leading proponent of the construction of a bridge connecting Ketchikan with its airport.

"Ralph Bartholomew passed away last fall at age 74, without seeing his dream of a bridge become reality. It is only appropriate that the bridge be named for its greatest supporter and become known as the Ralph Bartholomew Veterans' Memorial Bridge.

"Ralph was born in Ketchikan in 1923 and graduated from Ketchikan High School in 1941. That fall his studies at the University of Texas were interrupted by the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. He tried to enlist in the Army Air Corps, but needed parental consent. He returned to Ketchikan to enlist and spent nearly three of the next four years in the Aleutians.

"In 1946, he joined his father in the family business and remained with Ireland Transfer and Storage until its sale in 1996. He was elected chief of the Ketchikan Volunteer Fire Department in 1958 and served for six years. It was during that period that disastrous arson fires plagued downtown Ketchikan changing the face of the community. Working with city police and the state fire marshal, Bartholomew was able to bring the fire bug to justice in 1961.

"Ralph served on the school board and planning commission and then on the Ketchikan Gateway Borough Assembly. He was elected borough mayor in 1990. Ralph Bartholomew served in most every volunteer organization in his community and as president of the Eleventh Air Force Association. For more than the last decade, he championed the construction of a bridge to Gravina Island linking the community with its airport. His advocacy inspired many in his community and the bridge project comes closer to reality with time. When it is completed, this span should serve as a legacy of a true community leader and be named in his honor and the honor of all veterans."

Number 1127

JOHN "JACK" SHAY, Mayor, Ketchikan Gateway Borough, testified via teleconference from Ketchikan. He said Ralph's history in the Ketchikan community is extensive and his support of many civic projects is almost legendary. Mr. Shay stated Ralph enjoyed a great deal of respect and admiration from all of the populous. He was a military advocate and veteran. Ralph was active in many local events and was a father and grandfather.

MR. SHAY said he was not always a believer in the bridge. He recollected teaching a class at the university a few years ago and he asked Ralph to come in and address the class to talk about some of the issues he had been involved in as well as the airport location and bridge. When Ralph got through explaining the fine location of the local airport and the need for a hard link to that facility, Mr. Shay became one of his followers. There is great community support for renaming the bridge. He urged the legislation be passed.

Number 1308

REPRESENTATIVE HUDSON moved and asked unanimous consent to move SB 211 out of committee with individual recommendations and with the attached zero fiscal note. There being no objection, SB 211 moved out of the House Transportation Standing Committee.

Number 1334

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS called for an at-ease which was taken at 1:24 p.m. He called the meeting back to order at 1:31 p.m.

HB 412 - TRANSFER RAILROAD LAND TO WHITTIER

Number 1335

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS announced the committee would hear HB 412, "An Act providing for the transfer of certain land to the City of Whittier; and providing for an effective date," sponsored by Representative Cowdery.

REPRESENTATIVE COWDERY said, "After the last hearing we had we agreed -- I contacted Governor Hickel and asked him to mediate this thing to see if we could get some agreements to the.... And he agreed to do that and we agreed -- I kind of agreed to delay this thing for a week. After that week was up for more good faith, we extended it until today. And in the memorandum -- providing they could come to agreements, I phoned -- I got a memorandum of understanding of what they signed and then I talked to Governor Hickel's office this morning and also talked to the city of Whittier. And what they agreed to is not totally in this memorandum of understanding. In agreement with Governor Hickel, I agreed until they -- that we would delay this until they could come to an agreement, but we would hold it in Rules until that happened. I further asked Governor Hickel if that was his recollection and it was this morning. So I would like just to move this on to Rules and I'm going to hold it in Rules until they can get further clarification of what their mediation process said, and it has to do primarily with the percentage of revenue that would be derived by the city of Whittier and the railroad. And it's not clearly stated in here what that would be and that's a concern with all the parties, especially Whittier and myself. So we're going to hold it in Rules."

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS asked what the wish of the committee was regarding the bill.

Number 1493

REPRESENTATIVE COWDERY made a motion to move HB 412 out of committee with individual recommendations and with the attached fiscal notes. There being no objection, HB 412 moved out of the House Transportation Standing Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

Number 1529

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS adjourned the House Transportation Standing Committee meeting at 1:40 p.m.