

Introduced	Mayor
Date:	4/08/97
Action:	Adopted
Vote:	8 Yes, 1 No

**KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH
RESOLUTION 97-021**

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING PUBLIC OWNERSHIP AND THE PRESENT
MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE OF THE ALASKA RAILROAD**

- WHEREAS,** the State of Alaska purchased the Alaska Railroad in 1985 from the Federal Government to bring this critical transportation link under control of Alaskans for the first time; and
- WHEREAS,** the Alaska Railroad accomplishes a dual mission of supporting economic development and providing vital public transportation services; and
- WHEREAS,** with the Alaska Railroad Corporation Act of 1984, the Alaska State legislature created a management structure that is accountable to the legislature and governor through the appointment and confirmation of board members; and
- WHEREAS,** the Alaska Railroad Corporation Act enables the Alaska Railroad to be self-sustaining through retention of profits for reinvestment in capital improvements and maintenance; and
- WHEREAS,** the Alaska Railroad is meeting its mission to be professionally managed and self-sustaining, earning record profits in 1995 and 1996; and
- WHEREAS,** the Alaska Railroad has not received state general fund subsidies for operation or maintenance since coming under state ownership; and
- WHEREAS,** Alaska Railroad employees are not state employees, receive no state benefits, and are not part of the state retirement system; and
- WHEREAS,** the Alaska Railroad's success is due largely to its non-political management, its ability to respond to customer needs and its integration of freight, passenger, and real estate operations; and
- WHEREAS,** the Alaska Railroad, as a public institution, is an integral part of Alaska's history and future development; and
- WHEREAS,** the Alaska Railroad has one of the vital transportation corridors of 578 main line miles of track from tidewater at the City of Seward to the City of Fairbanks;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH:

SECTION 1. That the Alaska Railroad should continue under public ownership and the present management structure.

SECTION 2. That legislation or administrative proposals should not be imposed which would diminish the Alaska Railroad's ability to manage its budget and finances according to accepted business practices; meet the needs of its customers in a timely manner; or limit the corporation's ability to generate sufficient revenue to be self-sustaining, especially by transferring corporate lands to another entity.

SECTION 3. That the Alaska Railroad's Board of Directors should actively solicit and incorporate recommendations from representatives of rail users, impacted communities, tenants, legislators, and other interested parties, and develop long range plans for improving and expanding railroad services.


SECTION 4. That copies of this resolution shall be sent to Governor Tony Knowles; Governor Bill Sheffield, Alaska Railroad Corporation Chairman of the Board; and to Kenai Peninsula Borough legislators.

ADOPTED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH THIS 8th DAY OF APRIL 1997.



Jack Brown, Assembly President

ATTEST:



Shirley Ann Ogut
Borough Clerk