

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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Senator Charlie Huggins

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TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I was recently made aware of an extraordinary project to re-trace and tell the story of a little known historical event that took place from 1942 – 1945 between the United States, Canada, and Soviet Union. Stretching from Great Falls, Montana, the Alaska-Siberia Air Route (ALSIB) runs nearly 6,000 miles through Canada, Alaska, across the Bering Sea through Siberia, and on to Krasnoyarsk in central Russia.

This secret program, which was part of Lend-Lease, was developed to transport nearly 8,000 military aircraft and other supplies to the former Soviet Union during World War II. The need for supplies to various air fields along the route led to the creation of the Alcan Highway, one of the most challenging and brutal transportation projects of its time. For over 70 years, the story of the thousands of men and women across three nations who suffered great hardships in an effort to save the world has remained untold – until now.

Another significant aspect of this project is the story of Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP), whose role went unrecognized until their record was made public in 1977. The WASPs were responsible for flying the American-made aircraft from the factories throughout the United States. Great Falls served as their staging area prior to transferring the aircraft to the Soviets in Fairbanks.

Additionally, this project highlights the importance of Alaska in Russian/American affairs during WWII and it will emphasize that relationship today as the world is faced with a wide-range of social, economic, and political challenges.

The BRAVO 369 Flight Foundation is developing a series of unique living historical film documentaries called “Warplanes to Siberia” and will be flying the ALSIB route in the same type of aircraft that originally flew. The project is intended to not only showcase the history, but also be used as an educational tool in classrooms and museums throughout the United States, Canada, and Russia.

I fully endorse the efforts of the BRAVO 369 Flight Foundation and their documentary “Warplanes to Siberia.” I encourage organizations and companies to support this project as well.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charlie Huggins".

Charlie Huggins