HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 22

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES ORTIZ, Chenault, Hughes, Tuck, Gruenberg, Foster, Muñoz, Johnson, Josephson, Tarr, Lynn, LeDoux, Pruitt

Introduced: 4/2/15
Referred: State Affairs

A RESOLUTION

Urging the Canada Border Services Agency to keep the border between Hyder, Alaska, and Stewart, British Columbia, open 24 hours a day.

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

WHEREAS the residents of Hyder, Alaska, and Stewart, British Columbia, have expressed concern regarding the economic ramifications of limiting the hours that the border between those communities may be crossed; and

WHEREAS crossing the border is the only means by which residents of Hyder may leave their enclaved town by road and is the route by which they would escape inland by road in the event of a tsunami, flood, or other natural disaster; and

WHEREAS the Canada Border Services Agency plans to close the border daily in both directions, preventing, without cause, American citizens from entering or leaving Hyder; and

WHEREAS the residents of Hyder, Alaska, rely entirely on Stewart, British Columbia, for medical and other emergency services; and

WHEREAS the Hyder Community Association and the District of Stewart have both independently expressed strong support for keeping the border open 24 hours a day;

New Text Underlined [DELETED TEXT BRACKETED]
BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature urges the Canada Border Services Agency to keep the border between Stewart, British Columbia, and Hyder, Alaska, open 24 hours a day.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honourable Steven Blaney, Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness, Canada; and Luc Portelance, President, Canada Border Services Agency.