

# STATE OF ALASKA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2011

**Source**  
HR 5 am

**House  
Resolve No.**  
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Urging the United States Congress to fund fully the essential air service program.

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## **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:**

**WHEREAS** S.223, the FAA Air Transportation Modernization and Safety Improvement Act, has been introduced in the United States Senate; and

**WHEREAS** Amendment 4 to S.223 by the senior senator from Arizona would eliminate funding for the essential air service program; and

**WHEREAS** the 44 communities in the state that benefit from the essential air service program under 49 U.S.C. 41731 - 41748 are the most remote and isolated communities in the nation; and

**WHEREAS** air carriers in the state that are subsidized by the essential air service program provide critical passenger, cargo, and mail services to remote communities; and

**WHEREAS**, for many remote communities in the state, air travel is not simply a convenience, but the only scheduled passenger service to the rest of the world, making it vital for basic economic, health, and safety needs; and

**WHEREAS** the essential air service program ensures that remote communities can maintain a link to the national air transportation system; and

**WHEREAS** Alaska is a young state, and, because of the size and the unique geography of the state, relatively few roads provide access to remote communities, making aircraft the dominant mode of transportation in many rural areas; and

**WHEREAS** the elimination or any significant diminution of the essential air service program would significantly increase commodity prices and the cost of general passenger air travel essential to residents of the state's rural communities; and

**WHEREAS**, without the essential air service program, at least 12,000 Alaskans living off the road system would not be able to afford travel to regional hubs for essential medical care; and

**WHEREAS** the complete elimination or any significant diminution of the essential air service program affecting Alaska would have a severe negative economic effect on remote communities in the state, many of which are already economically depressed, and could destabilize those communities;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the House of Representatives supports the essential air service program and urges the United States Congress to reauthorize full funding for the program in S.223, the FAA Air Transportation Modernization and Safety Improvement Act.

**COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of the United States; the Honorable Raymond L. LaHood, United States Secretary of Transportation; the Honorable John McCain, U.S. Senator; the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Mark Begich, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress; and all other members of the 112th United States Congress.