

STATE OF ALASKA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2005

Source
HR 9

**House
Resolve No.**
9



Relating to the plans of the United States Postal Service to discontinue air shipment of bypass mail between Fairbanks, Alaska, and Barrow, Alaska.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

WHEREAS air shipment of bypass mail is a longstanding United States Postal Service practice for fourth-class mail delivery in remote areas of Alaska; and

WHEREAS air shipment of bypass mail has enabled Alaska shippers of frozen or perishable goods to transport these products from Fairbanks, Alaska, to communities on the North Slope of Alaska without significant risk of spoilage; and

WHEREAS air shipment of bypass mail has increased the amount of freight on commercial carriers, which has kept passenger fares significantly lower than they would be without the alternative revenue provided by bypass mail freight; and

WHEREAS the United States Postal Service has announced its intention to ship bypass mail by truck from Fairbanks, Alaska, to Deadhorse, Alaska, for transshipment to Barrow, Alaska, and the North Slope communities; and

WHEREAS this plan will end bypass mail shipment of frozen or perishable goods from Fairbanks, Alaska, to Barrow, Alaska, because of the additional time it takes to ship by

truck and because the United States Postal Service is not required to provide for or guarantee delivery of frozen or perishable goods in time to prevent spoilage; and

WHEREAS this change in postal service will cause a substantial increase in the cost of frozen and perishable food in the North Slope communities; and

WHEREAS this change in postal service will cause a substantial increase in airfares in and out of Barrow, Alaska; and

WHEREAS the United States Postal Service has not attempted to explain its plan to the affected communities or to consult with the affected communities about its plan; and

WHEREAS a change in postal service that affects many costs and services beyond mail delivery should not be made without consulting the affected communities;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State House of Representatives urges the United States Postal Service to delay any change in its current bypass mail system between Fairbanks, Alaska, and Barrow, Alaska, until it consults with the communities that would be affected by the change and understands the full impact of the change.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to John E. Potter, Postmaster General and CEO of the United States Postal Service; and the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.