

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 19

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE HOUSE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Introduced: 3/9/01

Referred: Resources

A RESOLUTION

1 **Urging the United States Congress to pass legislation to fund the acquisition of high-**
2 **resolution digital orthoimagery and digital elevation data for the entire state of Alaska.**

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

4 **WHEREAS** reliable, current, statewide base geographic information is essential for
5 public safety and continued economic development of our resources and to increase the
6 livability of our state; and

7 **WHEREAS** orthoimagery and elevation data are considered the foundation for the
8 framework of base geographic data; and

9 **WHEREAS** Alaska does not have digital orthoimagery or accurate elevation data; and

10 **WHEREAS** Alaska's statewide base geographic information is very poor; United
11 States Geological Survey (USGS) maps of Alaska are over 40 years old, lack statewide
12 coverage, and do not meet National Map Accuracy Standards; and there is no existing or
13 planned program to replace them; and

14 **WHEREAS** the current imagery of Alaska acquired through the Alaska High Altitude
15 Aerial Photography Program is over 20 years old, not in digital form, and therefore not
16 available for modern technological use; and

1 **WHEREAS** leading state policymakers defined topographic and other basic mapping
2 as the number one mapping need at the December 2000 meeting sponsored by the National
3 Aeronautics and Space Administration; and

4 **WHEREAS** funding situations in federal and state agencies have not allowed Alaska
5 to be a participant in the National Aerial Photography Program and the National Digital
6 Orthophoto Program providing complete aerial photography and orthoimagery coverage for
7 the lower 48 states on a regular basis; and

8 **WHEREAS** NASA's 2000 Shuttle Radar Topography Mission for producing
9 elevation data for topographic mapping covered 80 percent of the world but less than 20
10 percent of Alaska because it did not map above 60 degrees North latitude; and

11 **WHEREAS** new orthoimagery and elevation data provide common data foundation
12 layers that would show current conditions and trends on the Alaska landscape and are the
13 layers from which many types of geographic information are extracted and to which many
14 types are registered that will allow Alaska agencies, Native corporations, and private
15 organizations to better use Geographic Information Systems technology to aid in responsible
16 decision-making; and

17 **WHEREAS** the Alaska Digital Orthoimagery Initiative prepared by the Alaska
18 Geographic Data Committee outlines the need for high-resolution digital orthoimagery and
19 digital elevation data for Alaska;

20 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the Congress of the
21 United States to pass legislation to fund the acquisition of high-resolution digital
22 orthoimagery and digital elevation data for the entire state of Alaska as outlined by the Alaska
23 Geographic Data Committee.

24 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable George W. Bush, President
25 of the United States; the Honorable Richard B. Cheney, Vice-President of the United States
26 and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Gale Norton, United States Secretary of the
27 Interior; the Honorable J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the
28 Honorable Trent Lott, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens
29 and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S.
30 Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.