

STATE OF ALASKA THE LEGISLATURE

2007

Source
HJR 23

Legislative
Resolve No.
17



Supporting the reuse of facilities at the Galena Air Base to provide regional educational services.

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

WHEREAS, in 2005, the Defense Base Realignment and Closure Commission demonstrated a willingness to close the Galena Air Base in place of Eielson Air Force Base, thereby eliminating one important forward operating location and severing ties with the community; and

WHEREAS the Galena Air Base constitutes a critical aspect of Galena's economy and culture; and

WHEREAS the economic vitality of Galena is also important to the economic health of the Fairbanks North Star Borough and adjacent communities; and

WHEREAS the Defense Base Realignment and Closure Commission recommended a 2011 deadline for the community to achieve economic viability, but the United States Air Force set a new, earlier closure date of October 2008; and

WHEREAS the United States Air Force will be leaving facilities with a value greater than \$150,000,000 for reuse or mandatory demolition; and

WHEREAS the Galena Economic Development Council, which includes the City of Galena, the Loudon Village Council, and the Galena City School District, have proposed that the United States Air Force facilities left behind when the Galena Air Base is closed be used for regional educational services; and

WHEREAS the state has contributed resources and property in support of Galena's reuse plan; and

WHEREAS, in 2005, the State Board of Education and Early Development asked the legislature, the governor, and the education community to collaborate on a system of statewide boarding schools that meet the needs of Alaska's students; and

WHEREAS the Association of Alaska School Boards has resolved to support school districts operating regional boarding high schools; and

WHEREAS, because of increased enrollment demands, the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs is seeking a location for an interior military youth academy; and

WHEREAS the community operates a successful vocational high school boarding program and the Galena City School District operates a statewide correspondence school serving more than 3,800 children; and

WHEREAS Galena has demonstrated a record of success in education and the ability to reuse Air Force facilities; and

WHEREAS, under AS 24.20.675, the Joint Armed Services Committee has a duty to review the effect on communities of and work on specific realignment activities;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature supports Galena's reuse of United States Air Force facilities for regional educational services and urges the governor, the United States Air Force, and the Alaska Congressional delegation to join with the Alaska State Legislature in assisting the City of Galena in its effort to implement a viable and long-lasting reuse of the Galena Air Base.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Michael W. Wynne, Secretary of the Air Force; 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.