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CS FOR SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 14(STA)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE SENATE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Offered:

Referred:

Sponsor(s): SENATORS WIELECHOWSKI, McGuire

A RESOLUTION

1 **Urging the United States Department of Defense to protect military bases and military**
2 **personnel in the state for the defense and protection of the state and the nation.**

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

4 **WHEREAS** United States Secretary of Defense Leon E. Panetta recently announced
5 that the Pentagon will seek new rounds of military base closures as part of the budget cutting
6 process; and

7 **WHEREAS** United States Secretary of Defense Leon E. Panetta stated that, in an
8 effort to cut \$487,000,000,000 over the next decade, the number of soldiers in the United
9 States Army will drop over the next five years from 562,000 to 490,000, and the number of
10 marines in the United States Marine Corps will drop over the next five years from 202,000 to
11 182,000; and

12 **WHEREAS** the nation's primary concern must always be national defense and the
13 security of the United States, including Alaska; and

14 **WHEREAS** the geographic location of Alaska provides a vital strategic advantage for
15 current and future missions, force mobilization, and offensive and defensive operations,
16 including the state's strategic importance for polar air routes; and

1 **WHEREAS** the state's strategic global position has been recognized since World War
2 II and is very important to the United States, providing a prime location to defend the United
3 States against the potential aggression of hostile nations; and

4 **WHEREAS**, from bases in Alaska, the United States Air Force can gain quick access
5 to the Pacific and European theaters and can transition across the Arctic to arrive in Europe
6 faster than if flying from the East Coast of the United States; and

7 **WHEREAS**, with 32 military installations, more than 23,000 active duty service
8 members, and more than 37,000 family members of active duty service members, the military
9 force in Alaska is economically important; and

10 **WHEREAS** the 63,000 square mile range of the military complex in the state
11 provides a unique training and readiness compound unlike any other in the world; and

12 **WHEREAS** Alaska serves as a site activation command for the United States Missile
13 Defense Agency; and

14 **WHEREAS** the United States Department of Defense recognizes Alaska as an
15 important strategic location, recently increasing and upgrading the missile defense capability
16 in the state;

17 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature strongly urges the United States
18 Department of Defense to protect Alaska's military bases and to keep the number of military
19 personnel in the state intact for the defense and protection of the state and the United States.

20 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of
21 the United States; the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and
22 President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Leon E. Panetta, United States Secretary of
23 Defense; the Honorable Harry Reid, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable John
24 Boehner, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski
25 and the Honorable Mark Begich, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S.
26 Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.