

# STATE OF ALASKA

## THE LEGISLATURE

1988

Source

SJR 68

Legislative  
Resolve No.

76



Relating to radioluminescent runway lights.

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

WHEREAS air transportation is the primary mode of travel throughout the State of Alaska, particularly in the rural areas; and

WHEREAS due to high cost of construction and maintenance, many rural airports are without runway lights and currently rely on flare pots or the headlights of the community's vehicles when the runway must be lit in an emergency; and

WHEREAS, since 1978, the state Department of Transportation and Public Facilities in conjunction with the United States Department of Energy has been seeking an alternative method of lighting runways in rural Alaska; and

WHEREAS in 1981 these two departments began the development of a self-powered lighting system called radioluminescent lights that use a radioactive isotope, tritium, as the energy source and that would meet the needs of airports in rural Alaska; and

WHEREAS through extensive testing and refining, the radioluminescent lights, known as RL lights, are now 25 percent brighter than the original system, are less expensive to install than electrically powered lights, and are virtually maintenance free; and

WHEREAS although radioluminescent lighting systems appear to be a reliable and cost-effective alternative to electrically generated runway lights for rural Alaska, without approval of the Federal Aviation Administration, commercial carriers cannot officially utilize RL lighting systems, so installation of the RL lighting system is still not practical;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the Federal Aviation Administration to expedite its review process for certifying radioluminescent runway lights by making the testing of RL lights a priority project.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable James H. Burnley IV, Secretary, United States Department of Transportation; the Honorable T. Allen McArtor, Administrator, Federal Aviation Administration; the Honorable Franklin L. Cunningham, Alaska Region Director, Federal Aviation Administration; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.