

**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 67**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTIETH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Introduced: 4/9/98

Referred: Transportation

**A RESOLUTION**

1 **Relating to renewal of the bilateral aviation agreement concerning the mandatory**  
2 **Anchorage stopover for Russian carriers on transpacific routes between the Russian**  
3 **Far East and the United States.**

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

5 **WHEREAS** the current bilateral agreement between the United States and the Russian  
6 Federation that requires a stopover in Anchorage for Russian air carriers on transpacific routes  
7 between the Russian Far East and the United States expires in May 1998; and

8 **WHEREAS** this bilateral agreement preserves the equal footing of American air  
9 carriers operating mid-range aircraft with their Russian counterparts; and

10 **WHEREAS** the maintenance of this bilateral agreement preserves the position of  
11 Anchorage as the American gateway to the Russian Far East and prevents further decline in  
12 international air traffic through Anchorage, which would result in reduced economic  
13 opportunities in the state's largest municipality; and

14 **WHEREAS** the state has previously sustained the sudden loss of tens of millions of  
15 dollars and the departure of 10 European and Asian passenger air carriers in a two-year  
16 period; and

1           **WHEREAS** there is a large Russian community in the state that would be severely  
2 affected economically, socially, and culturally if air travel to and from the Russian Far East  
3 became more limited; and

4           **WHEREAS** the state gains important economic and cultural benefits from this bilateral  
5 agreement because more frequent travel opportunities encourage the development and  
6 maintenance of linkages between institutions, governments, and other entities in the Russian  
7 Far East and the University of Alaska and Alaska Pacific University, which provide training  
8 and technical assistance to entities in the Russian Far East to assist in the transition to a  
9 market-based economy; and

10          **WHEREAS** the state has established a Memorandum of Cooperation with the  
11 Khabarovsk and Sakhalin Dumas and has a sister state agreement with Khabarovsk Territory,  
12 and the Municipality of Anchorage has a Sister City agreement with the city of Magadan to  
13 provide economic and government advice for transition to a market-based economy and has  
14 developed strong financial connections with Magadan, Khabarovsk, Yakutsk, Yuzhno-  
15 Sakhalinsk, and other cities in the Russian Far East, continuation of which requires direct air  
16 service;

17          **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature strongly urges the United States  
18 Department of Transportation to negotiate for renewal of the bilateral agreement to retain the  
19 mandatory stopover in Anchorage, Alaska, for transpacific flights between the Russian Far  
20 East and the United States of America.

21          **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Madeleine Albright, U.S.  
22 Secretary of State; the Honorable Rodney E. Slater, U.S. Secretary of Transportation; Joan W.  
23 Bauerlein, Director of International Aviation; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the  
24 Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S.  
25 Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.