

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 30

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTIETH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE BY REQUEST

Introduced: 4/29/97

Referred: Judiciary

A RESOLUTION

1 **Relating to the defense of Alaska from offensive nuclear attack.**

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

3 **WHEREAS** Alaska is the 49th state to enter the federal union of the United States of
4 America and is entitled to all of the rights, privileges, and obligations that the union affords
5 and requires; and

6 **WHEREAS** Alaska possesses natural resources, both material and human, vital to the
7 prosperity and national security of the United States; and

8 **WHEREAS** the people of Alaska are conscious of the state's remote northern location
9 and proximity to Northeast Asia and the Eurasian land mass, and of how that unique location
10 places the state in a more vulnerable position than other states with regard to missiles that
11 could be launched in Asia and Europe; and

12 **WHEREAS** the people of Alaska recognize the changing nature of the international
13 political structure and the evolution and proliferation of missile delivery systems and weapons
14 of mass destruction as foreign states seek the military means to deter the power of the United
15 States in international affairs; and

16 **WHEREAS** there is a growing threat to Alaska by potential aggressors in these nations
17 and in rogue nations that may be gaining nuclear weapons capability and that have sponsored

1 international terrorism; and

2 **WHEREAS** ballistic missile defense technology exists to help defend Alaska from
3 threat by potential aggressors, but, despite the availability of funding from Congress to deploy
4 this technology, the Executive Branch has determined not to deploy these defenses and is
5 relying on a National Intelligence Estimate that left out Alaska and Hawaii to support that
6 policy; and

7 **WHEREAS** one of the primary reasons for joining the Union of the United States of
8 America was to gain security for the people of Alaska and for the common regulation of
9 foreign affairs on the basis of an equitable membership in the United States federation; and

10 **WHEREAS** the United States plans to field a national missile defense, perhaps as
11 early as 2003; this national missile defense plan will provide only a fragile defense for Alaska,
12 the state most likely to be threatened by new missile powers that are emerging in Northeast
13 Asia;

14 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the
15 President of the United States to take all actions necessary, within the considerable limits of
16 the resources of the United States, to protect on an equal basis all peoples and resources of
17 this great Union from threat of missile attack regardless of the physical location of the
18 member state; and be it

19 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests that
20 Alaska be included in every National Intelligence Estimate conducted by the United States
21 joint intelligence agencies; and be it

22 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the
23 President of the United States to include in any estimate of threat to the United States all
24 member states, not just the contiguous 48 states that the 1996 National Intelligence Estimate
25 included in its missile threat assessment; and be it

26 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States
27 government to take necessary measures to ensure that Alaska is protected against foreseeable
28 threats, nuclear and otherwise, posed by foreign aggressors, including deployment of a ballistic
29 missile defense system to protect Alaska; and be it

30 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature conveys to the President
31 of the United States expectations that Alaska's safety and security take priority over any

1 international treaty or obligation and that the President take whatever action is necessary to
2 ensure that Alaska can be defended against limited missile attacks with the same degree of
3 assurance as that provided to all other states; and be it

4 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests that
5 the appropriate Congressional committees hold hearings in Alaska that include defense experts
6 and administration officials to help Alaskans understand their risks, their level of security, and
7 Alaska's vulnerability.

8 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Bill Clinton, President of the
9 United States; the Honorable Al Gore, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and President
10 of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Newt Gingrich, Speaker of the U.S. House of
11 Representatives; the Honorable Ted Stevens, Chair of the U.S. Senate Committee on
12 Appropriations; the Honorable Bob Livingston, Chair of the U.S. House of Representatives
13 Committee on Appropriations; the Honorable Strom Thurmond, Chair of the U.S. Senate
14 Committee on Armed Services; the Honorable Floyd Spence, Chair of the U.S. House of
15 Representatives Committee on National Security; and to the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S.
16 Senator, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska
17 delegation in Congress.