

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 48

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVE PHILLIPS

Introduced: 1/26/00

Referred: House Special Committee on World Trade and State/Federal Relations

A RESOLUTION

1 Relating to the free flow of people and the fair trade of goods and services
2 across the border between the United States and Canada.

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

4 WHEREAS, in 1997, the International Committee and Governing Board of the Council
5 of State Governments adopted a resolution urging the United States Congress to amend the
6 Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 to exempt Canadians
7 from coverage under sec. 110 of that Act; and

8 WHEREAS the United States and Canada share the longest undefended border in the
9 world; and

10 WHEREAS the United States and Canada have the largest bilateral trade relationship
11 in the world, exceeding \$1,000,000,000 every day and supporting more than 2,000,000 jobs;
12 and

13 WHEREAS sec. 110 of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility
14 Act of 1996 requires the United States Attorney General to develop an automated entry and
15 exit control system to record the entry into and departure from the United States of all
16 "aliens"; and

1 **WHEREAS** sec. 110 of the Act uses the word "alien" without any qualification and
2 will apply to millions of Canadian citizens who enter the United States every year and have
3 traditionally enjoyed the longstanding reciprocal privilege of summary inspection; and

4 **WHEREAS** implementation of this control system has been delayed, but will go into
5 effect on March 31, 2001, imposing an unmanageable requirement on border crossing services
6 and resulting in gridlock at crucial border crossings between the United States and Canada;
7 and

8 **WHEREAS** the United States and Canada continue to pursue joint policies to facilitate
9 the movement of people and the fair trade of goods and services across the border, including
10 the 1995 Shared Border Accord and the Open Skies Agreement; and

11 **WHEREAS**, on October 8, 1999, the President of the United States and the Prime
12 Minister of Canada agreed to create the Canada-U.S. Partnership Forum (CUSP) intended to
13 help streamline border policies and management and increase efficiencies in customs,
14 immigration, and law enforcement;

15 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature calls on the United States
16 Congress to amend the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996
17 to exempt Canadian citizens from the requirements of sec. 110 of that Act; and be it

18 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature requests the United States
19 Congress to provide additional resources to adequately facilitate the free flow of people and
20 the fair trade of goods and services across the border between the United States and Canada;
21 and be it

22 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the
23 President of the United States to make this issue an administrative priority and to urge the
24 United States Congress to exempt Canadian citizens from sec. 110 of the Illegal Immigration
25 Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996; and be it

26 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature encourages all state
27 legislatures to pass resolutions urging the President of the United States, the leadership of the
28 United States Congress, and the state's congressional members to exempt Canadian citizens
29 from sec. 110 of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996.

30 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Bill Clinton, President of the
31 United States; the Honorable Al Gore, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and President

1 of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Trent Lott, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the
2 Honorable J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; to the Honorable
3 Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don
4 Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress; and to the
5 legislatures of each of the states.