

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 16

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES CRAWFORD, Kapsner, McGuire, Ogan, Chenault, Morgan, Foster, Hayes, Kohring, Green, Wilson, James, Dyson, Stevens

Introduced: 2/16/01

Referred: State Affairs

A RESOLUTION

1 **Urging President Bush, the United States Department of State, and the United States**
2 **Congress to intervene and negotiate with the government of Canada to reconsider the**
3 **imposition of a fee to transport firearms through Canada.**

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

5 **WHEREAS** Alaska is separated from the 48 contiguous states of the United States by
6 Canada, and many Alaskans travel the Alaska-Canada Highway and other highways in
7 Canada to reach the 48 contiguous states of the United States; and

8 **WHEREAS** Alaska borders Canada, Canadians engage in recreational activities in
9 Alaska, and Alaskans engage in recreational activities in Canada; and

10 **WHEREAS** these recreational opportunities often occur at, and Alaskans enter
11 Canada at, locations where Canada does not have a border station or customs personnel
12 permanently stationed; and

13 **WHEREAS** Alaska and the United States do not impose a fee for Canadians to
14 transport firearms into Alaska or the United States to engage in recreational activities; and

15 **WHEREAS** the government of Canada recently adopted new regulations that require

1 visitors to Canada not having a valid Canadian firearms license to declare their firearms
2 before entering Canada at a Canadian customs station, complete a Non-Resident Firearm
3 Declaration Form, and pay a \$50 (Canadian) confirmation fee; and

4 **WHEREAS** the imposition of this fee on Alaskans and those traveling to and from
5 Alaska is onerous and burdensome, especially when considering that neither Alaska nor the
6 United States has a reciprocal declaration and fee requirement; and

7 **WHEREAS** the declaration and fee requirements cause bad feelings and ill will
8 between Alaska and Canada;

9 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges President Bush, the
10 United States Department of State, and the United States Congress to intervene and negotiate
11 with the government of Canada to remove the onerous and burdensome declaration and fee
12 requirements in a manner that allows Alaskans to engage in routine recreational, transport,
13 and travel opportunities in Canada without declaration before entering Canada and without
14 payment of this fee.

15 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable George W. Bush, President
16 of the United States; the Honorable Richard B. Cheney, Vice-President of the United States
17 and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the U.S. House
18 of Representatives; the Honorable Colin Powell, United States Secretary of State; and to the
19 Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the
20 Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.