

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 10

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATORS AUSTERMAN, Wilken, Kelly, Cowdery, Elton, Leman, Pearce, Taylor, Lincoln, Ward

REPRESENTATIVES Wilson, Stevens, Murkowski

Introduced: 1/30/01

Referred: State Affairs

A RESOLUTION

1 **Urging the United States Congress to fully fund the operational readiness and**
2 **recapitalization requirements of the United States Coast Guard.**

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

4 **WHEREAS** the United States Coast Guard is a military multi-mission maritime
5 service that has answered the calls of the United States public continuously for more than 210
6 years; and

7 **WHEREAS** the United States Coast Guard has provided critical services to the
8 citizens of Alaska; and

9 **WHEREAS**, throughout its history, the United States Coast Guard's roles as lifesaver
10 and guardian of the sea have remained constant, while its missions have evolved and
11 expanded with the growth of the nation; and

12 **WHEREAS** the mission of the United States Coast Guard is to protect the nation's
13 safety, security, environment, and economy; and

14 **WHEREAS** the United States Coast Guard's operating goals of safety, natural
15 resource protection, mobility, maritime security, and national defense enable it to touch
16 everyone in the nation; and

1 **WHEREAS** the United States Coast Guard pursues its goal of safety primarily
2 through its search and rescue and marine safety operations; and

3 **WHEREAS** the United States Coast Guard is the only organization or government
4 agency that has the extensive inventory of assets and expertise necessary to conduct search
5 and rescue operations for both recreational boaters and commercial mariners on lakes, on
6 rivers, in shore areas, and on the high seas; and

7 **WHEREAS** the United States Coast Guard provides the first line of defense in
8 protecting the maritime environment through its marine safety program, which ensures the
9 safe commercial transport of passengers and cargo, including oil, through the nation's waters,
10 and which guards the nation's maritime borders from incursions by foreign fishing vessels;
11 and

12 **WHEREAS** the United States Coast Guard serves as a global model of efficient
13 military multi-mission maritime service for the emerging coast guard organizations of the
14 world and helps friendly countries to become positive forces of peace and stability, which
15 promotes democracy and the rule of law; and

16 **WHEREAS** United States Coast Guard personnel are a highly motivated group of
17 people who are committed to providing essential and valuable services to the American
18 public; and

19 **WHEREAS** the United States Coast Guard military structure, law enforcement
20 authority, and humanitarian functions make it a unique arm of national security and enable it
21 to support broad national goals; and

22 **WHEREAS** the United States Coast Guard is well known for being the first to reach
23 the scene when maritime disaster strikes, and it continues to be given the task of protecting
24 the nation's waters from pollution, the nation's borders from drug smuggling, and the nation's
25 fisheries from being over harvested, and to be assigned additional duties that stretch thin its
26 personnel and resources;

27 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States
28 Congress to fully fund the United States Coast Guard's operational readiness and
29 recapitalization requirements to ensure that this humanitarian arm of the nation's national
30 security system remains "semper paratus" throughout the Twenty-First Century.

31 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Dick Cheney, Vice-

1 President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Strom
2 Thurmond, President Pro-Tempore of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable J. Dennis Hastert,
3 Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; Admiral James M. Loy, Commandant of the
4 United States Coast Guard; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank
5 Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of
6 the Alaska delegation in Congress.