

CS FOR SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 14(STA)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE SENATE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Offered: 2/28/01

Referred: Rules

Sponsor(s): SENATOR TAYLOR, Ward, Leman, Green, Kelly, Donley, Pearce, Davis, Cowdery, Therriault, Halford

REPRESENTATIVES Kerttula, Porter, Berkowitz, Bunde, Chenault, Cissna, Coghill, Crawford, Croft, Davies, Dyson, Fate, Foster, Green, Guess, Halcro, Harris, Hayes, Hudson, James, Joule, Kapsner, Kohring, Kookesh, Kott, Lancaster, Masek, McGuire, Meyer, Morgan, Moses, Mulder, Murkowski, Ogan, Rokeberg, Scalzi, Stevens, Whitaker, Williams, Wilson

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, Taylor/Top of the World, Skagway/Klondike,
7 and Cassiar Highways and other highways in Canada to reach the 48 contiguous states of the
8 United States; and

9 **WHEREAS** Alaska borders the Yukon and British Columbia, Canadians engage in
10 recreational activities in Alaska, and Alaskans engage in recreational activities in Canada; and

11 **WHEREAS**, in pursuit of these recreational opportunities, Alaskans enter Canada at
12 locations, some of which do not have a border station or customs personnel permanently
13 stationed; and

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

1 **WHEREAS** the government of Canada recently adopted new regulations that require
2 visitors to Canada not having a valid Canadian firearms license to declare their firearms
3 before entering Canada at a Canadian customs station, complete a Non-Resident Firearm
4 Declaration Form, and pay a \$50 (Canadian) confirmation fee; and

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

8 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges President Bush, the
9 United States Department of State, and the United States Congress to intervene and negotiate
10 with the government of Canada to remove the declaration and fee requirements in a manner
11 that allows Alaskans to engage in routine recreational, transport, and travel opportunities in
12 Canada.

13 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Jean Chretien, Prime
14 Minister of Canada; the Honorable Lloyd Axworthy, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Canada; the
15 members of Parliament from British Columbia and the Yukon; the Honorable Pat Duncan,
16 Premier of the Yukon; the Honorable Ujjal Dosanjh, Premier of British Columbia; the
17 Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United States; the Honorable Richard B.
18 Cheney, Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable
19 J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Colin Powell,
20 United States Secretary of State; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank
21 Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of
22 the Alaska delegation in Congress.