

**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 23**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA  
TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

**BY REPRESENTATIVES JOULE, Samuels**

**Introduced: 5/8/05**  
**Referred: Rules**

**A RESOLUTION**

1 **Relating to the plans of the United States Postal Service to discontinue air shipment of**  
2 **bypass mail between Fairbanks, Alaska, and Barrow, Alaska.**

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

4 **WHEREAS** air shipment of bypass mail is a longstanding United States Postal  
5 Service practice for fourth-class mail delivery in remote areas of Alaska; and

6 **WHEREAS** air shipment of bypass mail has enabled Alaska shippers of frozen or  
7 perishable goods to transport these products from Fairbanks, Alaska, to communities on the  
8 North Slope of Alaska without significant risk of spoilage; and

9 **WHEREAS** air shipment of bypass mail has increased the amount of freight on  
10 commercial carriers, which has kept passenger fares significantly lower than they would be  
11 without the alternative revenue provided by bypass mail freight; and

12 **WHEREAS** the Unites States Postal Service has announced its intention to ship  
13 bypass mail by truck from Fairbanks, Alaska, to Deadhorse, Alaska, for transshipment to  
14 Barrow, Alaska, and the North Slope communities; and

15 **WHEREAS** this plan will end bypass mail shipment of frozen or perishable goods  
16 from Fairbanks, Alaska, to Barrow, Alaska, because of the additional time it takes to ship by

1 truck and because the United States Postal Service is not required to provide for or guarantee  
2 delivery of frozen or perishable goods in time to prevent spoilage; and

3 **WHEREAS** this change in postal service will cause a substantial increase in the cost  
4 of frozen and perishable food in the North Slope communities; and

5 **WHEREAS** this change in postal service will cause a substantial increase in airfares  
6 in and out of Barrow, Alaska; and

7 **WHEREAS** the United States Postal Service has not attempted to explain its plan to  
8 the affected communities or to consult with the affected communities about its plan; and

9 **WHEREAS** a change in postal service that affects many costs and services beyond  
10 mail delivery should not be made without consulting the affected communities;

11 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States Postal  
12 Service to delay any change in its current bypass mail system between Fairbanks, Alaska, and  
13 Barrow, Alaska, until it consults with the communities that would be affected by the change  
14 and understands the full impact of the change.

15 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to John E. Potter, Postmaster General and  
16 CEO of the United States Postal Service; and the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable  
17 Lisa Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative,  
18 members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.