

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 4

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATORS OLSON, Wilken, Bunde, Cowdery, Davis, Dyson, Ellis, Elton, French, Green, Guess, Hoffman, Huggins, Kookesh, Seekins, Stedman, Ben Stevens, Gary Stevens, Therriault, Wagoner

Introduced: 5/9/05
Referred: Taken Up

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 SENATE:**

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 United 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 Senate 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.