

**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 8**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES THOMAS, Samuels, Wilson, Gruenberg, LeDoux

Introduced: 2/7/07

Referred: Transportation, Labor and Commerce

**A RESOLUTION**

1 **Opposing the enactment by the Washington State Legislature of a bill proposing to**  
2 **impose a fee on the processing of shipping containers in the State of Washington because**  
3 **of the negative impact of the fee on the people and the economy of this state.**

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

5 **WHEREAS** Washington state has been the primary gateway to this state since before  
6 the first gold rush, more than 100 years ago; and

7 **WHEREAS** the people of this state continue to depend on ships and barges to move  
8 almost all of the necessities of daily life from Washington state; and

9 **WHEREAS** many isolated maritime communities that do not have road access  
10 depend entirely on marine cargo shipped from Washington state as their lifelines; and

11 **WHEREAS** 97 percent by weight and 60 percent of the value of all goods shipped to  
12 Alaska are shipped by water; and

13 **WHEREAS** most seafood harvested in this state and bound for the lower 48 states is  
14 shipped from this state to and through ports in Washington state; and

15 **WHEREAS**, during 2003, this state was Puget Sound's fifth largest trading partner,

1 aside from the aerospace industry, and the economic connection between this state and  
2 Washington state was responsible for at least 103,500 jobs and over \$4,000,000,000 in labor  
3 earnings; and

4 **WHEREAS** Senate Bill 5207, which is pending before the Washington State  
5 Legislature, would impose a fee of \$50 for each 20-foot equivalent unit on every cargo  
6 container traveling between Washington state and this state; most cargo containers are at least  
7 two 20-foot equivalent units and would be subject to a fee of \$100 each time the container  
8 leaves Washington state and each time the container returns to that state, regardless of  
9 whether the container is empty, partially loaded, or full; and

10 **WHEREAS** Senate Bill 5207 would be detrimental to the trading relationship  
11 between Washington state and this state; and

12 **WHEREAS**, because of this state's unique dependence on ports in Washington state,  
13 enactment of Senate Bill 5207 would damage this state's economy and cripple many isolated  
14 communities in this state by raising the cost of living by several percent;

15 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests that the  
16 Washington State Legislature recognize the negative effect Senate Bill 5207 would have on  
17 the trading relationship between Washington state and this state and the economic costs  
18 associated with that negative effect to both states; and be it

19 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests that  
20 the Washington State Legislature recognize the negative effect Senate Bill 5207 would have  
21 on the people and economy of this state, particularly on maritime communities in the  
22 southeast part of this state; and be it

23 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature opposes the enactment of  
24 Senate Bill 5207 and urges the Washington State Legislature to consider alternative means for  
25 raising revenue to be used for the infrastructure of the ports of that state.

26 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Chris Gregoire, Governor of  
27 Washington; the Honorable Brad Owen, Lieutenant Governor of Washington; the Honorable  
28 Frank Chopp, Speaker of the Washington House of Representatives; the Honorable Sarah  
29 Palin, Governor of Alaska; the Honorable Sean Parnell, Lieutenant Governor of Alaska; and  
30 the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the  
31 Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.