

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 11

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES ROSES, Buch, Gruenberg, LeDoux, Fairclough, Gardner

Introduced: 2/28/07

Referred: House Special Committee on Military and Veterans' Affairs, State Affairs

A RESOLUTION

1 **Relating to the increased authority granted to the President of the United States to**
2 **federalize the National Guard of the individual states without the consent of the**
3 **governors; and urging the United States Congress to take action to restore the**
4 **sovereignty of the individual states to regulate and command the National Guard of the**
5 **states.**

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

7 **WHEREAS** the National Guard is the oldest component of the armed forces of the
8 United States and one of the nation's longest-enduring institutions; and

9 **WHEREAS** the National Guard traces its history back to the earliest English colonies
10 in North America who were responsible for their own defense and as such organized their
11 able-bodied male citizens into militias; and

12 **WHEREAS** the authors of the United States Constitution empowered the United
13 States Congress to provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining the militia, and, to
14 recognize the militia's state role, the founding fathers reserved the appointment of officers and
15 training of the militia to the states; and

1 **WHEREAS** the federal government's preemption of the authority of the state or
2 governor in natural and manmade disasters is opposed by all of the nation's governors; and

3 **WHEREAS** the role of the National Guard in the states and in the nation as a whole is
4 too important to have major policy decisions made without full debate and input from
5 governors through the policy process;

6 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature exhorts the United States
7 Congress and the federal administration to understand the significant effect on Alaska and all
8 the states by the expansion of presidential authority over the National Guard during natural
9 and manmade disasters; and be it

10 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges federal action to
11 restore the sovereignty of the individual states to regulate and command National Guard
12 troops during emergencies and disasters, and to take whatever additional actions are necessary
13 to correct the encroachment of constitutional authority to protect the citizens of each state.

14 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable George W. Bush, President
15 of the United States; the Honorable Richard B. Cheney, Vice-President of the United States
16 and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the U.S. House of
17 Representatives; the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski, U.S.
18 Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska
19 delegation in Congress; and all other members of the 110th United States Congress.