

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 18

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES JOHANSEN, Neuman

Introduced: 4/5/07

Referred: Transportation

A RESOLUTION

1 **Opposing the enactment of the provisions in the Next Generation Transportation**
2 **System Financing Reform Act of 2007 that increase aviation fuel and aviation gas taxes.**

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

4 **WHEREAS**, because of Alaska's geography and its many isolated communities
5 without road access, the state has historically relied heavily on general aviation as a major
6 component of its transportation system; and

7 **WHEREAS** the people of Alaska continue to depend on general aviation to move and
8 distribute mail, supplies, goods, and people around the state; and

9 **WHEREAS**, as of May 1999, Alaska had 10,605 registered pilots and 8,053
10 registered aircraft, approximately one pilot and one aircraft for every 61 Alaskans; and

11 **WHEREAS** it is estimated Alaska has about six times as many pilots per capita and
12 16 times as many aircraft per capita as the rest of the United States; and

13 **WHEREAS** Alaska ranks sixth in the total number of airports with 583, including
14 heliports and seaplane bases, a number that equals approximately 3.5 percent of the total
15 number of airports in the United States; and

16 **WHEREAS** Alaska is among the top states in the number of seaplane bases with 102,

1 approximately 25 percent of the United States total;

2 **WHEREAS** Alaska has two of the world's largest seaplane bases in the world with
3 Lake Hood in Anchorage, which accommodates more than 800 takeoffs and landings on a
4 peak summer day, and Ketchikan, where approximately 16,000 takeoffs and landings by
5 seaplanes and general aviation planes occur in each month in the summer; and

6 **WHEREAS** H.R. 1356, the Next Generation Air Transportation System Financing
7 Reform Act of 2007, that is pending before Congress would increase the tax on aviation gas
8 from 19.4 cents a gallon to 70 cents a gallon and the tax on aviation fuel from 21.9 cents a
9 gallon to 70 cents a gallon; and

10 **WHEREAS** because of Alaska's unique geography and dependence on general
11 aviation, such an increase in taxes would be detrimental to the economy of this state and
12 would have a particularly harsh impact on many isolated rural communities;

13 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully opposes the
14 enactment of the provisions in the Next Generation Air Transportation System Financing
15 Reform Act of 2007 that increase aviation fuel and aviation gas taxes.

16 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Bart Gordon, Chair of the
17 U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Science and Technology; the Honorable Ralph
18 Hall, Ranking Member of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Science and
19 Technology; the Honorable Mark Udall, Chair of the Subcommittee on Science and
20 Aeronautics of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Science and Technology; the
21 Honorable Ken Calvert, Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Science and Aeronautics
22 of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Science and Technology; the Honorable
23 James Oberstar, Chair of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Transportation and
24 Infrastructure; the Honorable John L. Mica, Ranking Member of the U.S. House of
25 Representatives Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure; the Honorable Jerry F.
26 Costello, Chair of the Subcommittee on Aviation of the U.S. House of Representatives
27 Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure; the Honorable Thomas E. Petri, Ranking
28 Member of the Subcommittee on Aviation of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee
29 on Transportation and Infrastructure; the Honorable Charles B. Rangel, Chair of the U.S.
30 House of Representatives Committee on Ways and Means; the Honorable Jim McCrery,
31 Ranking Member of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Ways and Means; the

1 Honorable Daniel Inouye, Chair of the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and
2 Transportation; the Honorable John D. Rockefeller, IV, Chair of the Subcommittee on
3 Aviation Operations, Safety, and Security of the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce,
4 Science, and Transportation; the Honorable Trent Lott, Ranking Member of the
5 Subcommittee on Aviation Operations, Safety, and Security of the U.S. Senate Committee on
6 Commerce, Science, and Transportation; the Honorable John Katz, Director of State and
7 Federal Relations and Special Counsel to the Governor of Alaska; and the Honorable Ted
8 Stevens and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young,
9 U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.