

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 38

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Introduced: 3/11/08

Referred: State Affairs

A RESOLUTION

1 **Recognizing the State of Israel on the 60th anniversary of its founding.**

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

3 **WHEREAS** on May 14, 1948, the people of Israel proclaimed the establishment of
4 the sovereign and independent State of Israel;

5 **WHEREAS** the United States was the first nation to recognize the new state;

6 **WHEREAS** the desire of the Jewish people to establish an independent modern State
7 of Israel was the outgrowth of the existence of the historic Kingdom of Israel established
8 3,000 years ago in the city of Jerusalem and in the land of Israel;

9 **WHEREAS** in 1897, at the First Zionist Congress in Basel, Switzerland, participants,
10 under the leadership of Theodor Herzl, affirmed the desire to establish a Jewish homeland in
11 the historic land of Israel;

12 **WHEREAS** the establishment of the modern State of Israel as a Jewish homeland
13 followed the slaughter during World War II of more than 6,000,000 Jews in what is now
14 known as the Holocaust;

15 **WHEREAS** since its establishment 60 years ago, the modern State of Israel has
16 forged a new and dynamic society and created a unique and vital economic, political, cultural,

1 and intellectual life despite the heavy costs of wars, terrorism, international ostracism, and
2 economic boycotts;

3 **WHEREAS** the people of Israel have established a vibrant, pluralistic democratic
4 political system that embraces freedom of speech; a free press; free, fair, and open elections;
5 the rule of law; and other democratic principles and practices;

6 **WHEREAS** at great social and financial costs, Israel has absorbed hundreds of
7 thousands of Jewish refugees from around the world and integrated them into Israeli society;

8 **WHEREAS** Alaska shares a special connection to Israel because Alaska Airlines
9 participated in the rescue of 40,000 Yemenite Jews by flying thousands of them from Yemen
10 to Tel Aviv during 1948 and 1949; and

11 **WHEREAS** for 60 years, the United States and Israel have maintained a strong and
12 special relationship based on mutually shared democratic values, common strategic interests,
13 and moral bonds of friendship and mutual respect; and

14 **WHEREAS** the American people have shared an affinity with the people of Israel and
15 regard Israel as a strong and trusted ally;

16 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature recognizes the historic
17 significance of the 60th anniversary of the establishment of the sovereign and independent
18 modern State of Israel; and be it

19 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature commends the people of
20 Israel for their remarkable achievements in building a new state and a pluralistic democratic
21 society in the Middle East in the face of war, terrorism, isolation, and hostility from beyond
22 and within their borders; and be it

23 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature reaffirms the strong bonds
24 of friendship and cooperation that have existed between the United States and Israel for more
25 than a half-century; and be it

26 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature extends the warmest
27 congratulations and best wishes to the State of Israel and her people for a peaceful,
28 prosperous, and successful future.

29 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to David Akov, Consulate General of Israel to
30 the Pacific Northwest; and the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski,
31 U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska

1 delegation in Congress.