

**CS FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 38(STA)**  
**IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA**  
**TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION**

**BY THE HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**Offered: 3/13/08**

**Referred: Rules**

**Sponsor(s): HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**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 share 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 the Honorable Condoleezza Rice, United  
30 States Secretary of State; David Akov, Consulate General of Israel to the Pacific Northwest;  
31 and the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the

1 Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.