

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 8

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATOR OLSON

Introduced: 4/25/07

Referred: Community and Regional Affairs

A RESOLUTION

1 **Urging the United States Congress to intervene to eliminate or reduce the planned**
2 **parcel post and bypass mail rate increases adopted by the United States Postal Service**
3 **because of the severe effect the rate increases will have on rural Alaska.**

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

5 **WHEREAS** the United States Postal Service intends to increase overall fourth class
6 parcel post rates to rural Alaska on May 14, 2007, by between 29 and 58 percent, depending
7 on the average bundle rate; and

8 **WHEREAS** rural Alaskans depend on the bypass mail system to bring the products
9 and food they consume every day; and

10 **WHEREAS** the parcel post rates are also the bypass mail rates; and

11 **WHEREAS** the rate increase is believed to be the largest single rate increase for
12 bypass mail consumers; and

13 **WHEREAS** many Alaskans who live in rural Alaska live on fixed incomes; and

14 **WHEREAS** high fuel costs in rural Alaska are already forcing families to make
15 choices between heating their homes, feeding their families, and buying other life necessities

1 with limited incomes; and

2 **WHEREAS**, when the pending rate increase takes effect, a 40-pound parcel of food
3 going from Anchorage to Bethel that currently costs 26.5 cents a pound will cost 37 cents a
4 pound, and the cost of a gallon of milk in Bethel will rise from the current price of \$6.89 to
5 more than \$8; and

6 **WHEREAS** increased costs of delivery of food like those in Bethel will be reflected
7 in communities located outside of the urban areas of the state and will cause financial
8 hardship in the remote villages; and

9 **WHEREAS** the pending rate increase, if implemented, will have a substantial
10 negative effect on the lives of rural Alaskans;

11 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States
12 Congress to intervene to eliminate or reduce the pending parcel post and bypass mail rate
13 increases adopted by the United States Postal Service as they apply to rural Alaska.

14 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable George W. Bush, President
15 of the United States; the Honorable John E. Potter, United States Postmaster General; and the
16 Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable
17 Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.