

**SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 10**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATORS WIELECHOWSKI, Kookesh

Introduced: 5/2/07

Referred: Health, Education and Social Services

**A RESOLUTION**

1 **Supporting the reuse of facilities at the Galena Air Base to provide regional educational**  
2 **services.**

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

4 **WHEREAS**, in 2005, the Defense Base Realignment and Closure Commission  
5 demonstrated a willingness to close the Galena Air Base in place of Eielson Air Force Base,  
6 thereby eliminating one important forward operating location and severing ties with the  
7 community; and

8 **WHEREAS** the Galena Air Base constitutes a critical aspect of Galena's economy and  
9 culture; and

10 **WHEREAS** the economic vitality of Galena is also important to the economic health  
11 of the Fairbanks North Star Borough and adjacent communities; and

12 **WHEREAS** the Defense Base Realignment and Closure Commission recommended a  
13 2011 deadline for the community to achieve economic viability, but the United States Air  
14 Force set a new, earlier closure date of October 2008; and

15 **WHEREAS** the United States Air Force will be leaving facilities with a value greater  
16 than \$150,000,000 for reuse or mandatory demolition; and

1           **WHEREAS**, the Galena Economic Development Council, which includes the City of  
2 Galena, the Loudon Village Council, and the Galena City School District, have proposed that  
3 the United States Air Force facilities left behind when the Galena Air Base is closed be used  
4 for regional educational services; and

5           **WHEREAS** the state has contributed resources and property in support of Galena's  
6 reuse plan; and

7           **WHEREAS** in 2005, the State Board of Education and Early Development, asked the  
8 legislature, the governor, and the education community to collaborate on a system of  
9 statewide boarding schools that meet the needs of Alaska's students; and

10          **WHEREAS** the Association of Alaska School Boards has resolved to support school  
11 districts operating regional boarding high schools; and

12          **WHEREAS**, because of increased enrollment demands, the Department of Military  
13 and Veterans' Affairs is seeking a location for an interior military youth academy; and

14          **WHEREAS** the community operates a successful vocational high school boarding  
15 program and the Galena City School District operates a statewide correspondence school  
16 serving more than 3,800 children; and

17          **WHEREAS** Galena has demonstrated a record of success in education and the ability  
18 to reuse Air Force facilities; and

19          **WHEREAS**, under AS 24.20.675, the Joint Armed Services Committee has a duty to  
20 review the effect on communities of and work on specific realignment activities;

21          **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature supports Galena's reuse of  
22 United States Air Force facilities for regional educational services and urges the governor, the  
23 United States Air Force, and the Alaska Congressional delegation to join with the Alaska  
24 State Legislature in assisting the City of Galena in its effort to implement a viable and long-  
25 lasting reuse of the Galena Air Base.

26          **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Michael W. Wynne,  
27 Secretary of the Air Force; and the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Lisa  
28 Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of  
29 the Alaska delegation in Congress.