

**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 34**

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

**BY REPRESENTATIVES CRAWFORD, Fairclough**

**Introduced: 4/16/09**

**Referred: Transportation, State Affairs**

**A RESOLUTION**

1 **Asking the Secretary of the United States Department of Transportation to redefine the**  
2 **time zones in Alaska.**

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

4 **WHEREAS** Alaska currently is divided into two time zones, the Alaska standard time  
5 zone and the Hawaii-Aleutian standard time zone; and

6 **WHEREAS**, while most of Alaska is placed in the Alaska standard zone, that part of  
7 the Aleutian Islands that is located west of 169 degrees 30 minutes West longitude is placed  
8 in the Hawaii-Aleutian standard time zone; and

9 **WHEREAS** federal law at 15 U.S.C. 260 - 267 regulates time in the United States and  
10 establishes standard time zones for the United States; and

11 **WHEREAS** the limits of each standard zone are defined by order of the United States  
12 Secretary of Transportation with regard for the convenience of commerce and existing  
13 junction points and division points of common carriers engaged in interstate or foreign  
14 commerce; and

15 **WHEREAS** the Railbelt area of Alaska, with its financial centers in Anchorage and  
16 Fairbanks, has always enjoyed close business and financial relationships with the West Coast

1 of the United States; and

2 **WHEREAS** the Southeast area of Alaska also has long-established business and  
3 financial relationships with the West Coast of the United States; and

4 **WHEREAS** the Kodiak Island Borough in Alaska has close connections to  
5 Anchorage and would like to stay in the same standard time zone as Anchorage; and

6 **WHEREAS** the Railbelt and Southeast areas of Alaska and the Kodiak Island  
7 Borough of Alaska are in a different standard time zone than the West Coast of the United  
8 States, which is in the Pacific standard time zone; and

9 **WHEREAS**, because of their business and financial ties, it is desirable for the  
10 Southeast and Railbelt areas of Alaska to operate in the same time zone as the West Coast of  
11 the United States, and being in different standard time zones makes it difficult to handle  
12 business and financial matters with the West Coast of the United States; and

13 **WHEREAS** being in a different standard time zone from Anchorage would be  
14 difficult for the Kodiak Island Borough; and

15 **WHEREAS** Western Alaska, including the western Aleutian Islands, does not have  
16 the same ties to the West Coast of the United States as do the Railbelt and Southeast areas of  
17 Alaska and, as a result, does not share those areas' need to change standard time zones; and

18 **WHEREAS** the Railbelt and Southeast areas of Alaska are east of 154 degrees West  
19 longitude, but the Kodiak Island Borough is bifurcated by that longitude;

20 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature requests the United States  
21 Secretary of Transportation to redefine the boundaries of the standard time zones in which  
22 Alaska is located by

23 (1) placing into the Pacific standard time zone those portions of the state that  
24 are located east of 154 degrees West longitude and that part of the Kodiak Island Borough  
25 that lies west of 154 degrees West longitude;

26 (2) leaving in the Alaska standard time zone that part of Alaska that is west of  
27 154 degrees West longitude and currently in the Alaska standard time zone, but excluding that  
28 part of the Kodiak Island Borough that lies west of 154 degrees West longitude; and

29 (3) leaving in the Hawaii-Aleutian standard time zone that portion of Alaska  
30 that is west of 169 degrees 30 minutes West longitude and currently in the Hawaii-Aleutian  
31 standard time zone.

1           **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Raymond L. LaHood,  
2 United States Secretary of Transportation; and to the Honorable Lisa Murkowski, the  
3 Honorable Mark Begich, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative,  
4 members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.