

CS FOR SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 14(STA)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE SENATE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Offered: 2/8/12

Referred: Today's Calendar

Sponsor(s): SENATORS WIELECHOWSKI, McGuire, Thomas, Coghill, Dyson, French, Kookesh, Meyer, Ellis, Menard, Paskvan, Egan, Davis, Stedman, Stevens

REPRESENTATIVES Saddler, Lynn, Petersen, Chenault, Feige, Tuck

A RESOLUTION

1 **Urging the United States Department of Defense to protect military bases and military**
2 **personnel in the state for the defense and protection of the state and the nation.**

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

4 **WHEREAS** United States Secretary of Defense Leon E. Panetta recently announced
5 that the Pentagon will seek new rounds of military base closures as part of the budget cutting
6 process; and

7 **WHEREAS** United States Secretary of Defense Leon E. Panetta stated that, in an
8 effort to cut \$487,000,000,000 over the next decade, the number of soldiers in the United
9 States Army will drop over the next five years from 562,000 to 490,000, and the number of
10 marines in the United States Marine Corps will drop over the next five years from 202,000 to
11 182,000; and

12 **WHEREAS** the nation's primary concern must always be national defense and the
13 security of the United States, including Alaska; and

14 **WHEREAS** the geographic location of Alaska provides a vital strategic advantage for
15 current and future missions, force mobilization, and offensive and defensive operations,
16 including the state's strategic importance for polar air routes; and

1 **WHEREAS** the state's strategic global position has been recognized since World War
2 II and is very important to the United States, providing a prime location to defend the United
3 States against the potential aggression of hostile nations; and

4 **WHEREAS**, from bases in Alaska, the United States Air Force can gain quick access
5 to the Pacific and European theaters and can transition across the Arctic to arrive in Europe
6 faster than if flying from the East Coast of the United States; and

7 **WHEREAS**, with 32 military installations, more than 23,000 active duty service
8 members, and more than 37,000 family members of active duty service members, the military
9 force in Alaska is economically important; and

10 **WHEREAS** the 63,000 square mile range of the military complex in the state
11 provides a unique training and readiness compound unlike any other in the world; and

12 **WHEREAS** the northernmost United States Air Force base in North America, which
13 is located in central Alaska, is home to Red Flag - Alaska exercises that provide access to the
14 Joint Pacific Alaska Range Complex training space for combined joint training by the nation
15 and its allies, including extensive live weapons fire, live ordnances, and controlled unmanned
16 aerial vehicle and overland supersonic flight; and

17 **WHEREAS** the Pacific air bridge is supported by Alaska based KC-135 tankers with
18 24,000,000 gallons of jet fuel storage supplied by a central Alaska refinery via direct pipeline;
19 and

20 **WHEREAS** the State of Alaska has invested \$80,000,000 of its own capital funds in
21 the last two years to provide the military exclusive direct ground access to the Joint Pacific
22 Alaska Range Complex, which is adjacent to Eielson Air Force Base; and

23 **WHEREAS** Alaska serves as a site activation command for the United States Missile
24 Defense Agency; and

25 **WHEREAS** the United States Department of Defense recognizes Alaska as an
26 important strategic location, recently increasing and upgrading the missile defense capability
27 in the state;

28 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature strongly urges the United States
29 Department of Defense to protect Alaska's military bases and to keep the number of military
30 personnel in the state intact for the defense and protection of the state and the United States.

31 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of

1 the United States; the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and
2 President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Leon E. Panetta, United States Secretary of
3 Defense; the Honorable Harry Reid, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable John
4 Boehner, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski
5 and the Honorable Mark Begich, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S.
6 Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.