

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 13

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES AUSTERMAN, Costello, Thompson, Higgins, Isaacson, Lynn, Gattis, Pruitt, Gruenberg, Hughes, Foster, LeDoux, Kreiss-Tomkins

Introduced: 3/15/13

Referred: Transportation

A RESOLUTION

1 **Urging the United States Congress and the President of the United States to complete**
2 **the funding and acquisition of three additional National Security Cutters and to home**
3 **port one of the cutters in Kodiak, Alaska.**

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

5 **WHEREAS** Operation Arctic Shield has shown an increasing need for Coast Guard
6 presence in the remote Arctic region; and

7 **WHEREAS** the Bertholf, the first of a new class of cutter called the National Security
8 Cutter, with exceptional endurance, operational, and command and control capabilities, has
9 twice patrolled the Arctic; and

10 **WHEREAS** the harsh environment, limited infrastructure, and logistics pose unique
11 challenges when conducting operations in the Arctic; and

12 **WHEREAS** National Security Cutters like the Bertholf are designed to conduct
13 operations from South America to the Bering Sea, where their unmatched combination of
14 range, speed, and ability to operate in extreme weather provides the mission flexibility to
15 conduct homeland security, domestic fisheries protection, search and rescue, and other

1 missions at great distances from shore; and

2 **WHEREAS** the Coast Guard is the nation's leading federal agency for ensuring
3 maritime safety, security, and stewardship in the Arctic, and the Coast Guard is responsible
4 for conducting statutory missions in the Arctic to ensure the region remains safe and secure;
5 and

6 **WHEREAS** the only Coast Guard high and medium-endurance cutters in the state, the
7 Haley and Munro, are both over 40 years old and have not been scheduled for replacement;
8 and

9 **WHEREAS** the National Security Cutter acquisition program calls for the delivery of
10 eight National Security Cutters to replace the nation's 12 high-endurance cutters; and

11 **WHEREAS**, to date, only three vessels have been delivered to the Coast Guard, with
12 a fourth vessel under construction and a contract for the fifth awarded on September 9, 2011,
13 and the President's current budget request includes funding for a sixth; and

14 **WHEREAS** these ships are critical for the Coast Guard to execute its high seas
15 mission;

16 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States
17 Congress and the President of the United States to complete the program of record for the
18 funding and acquisition of the three additional National Security Cutters and to home port one
19 of the cutters in Kodiak, Alaska.

20 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the
21 Honorable Mark Begich, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative,
22 members of the Alaska delegation in Congress; all other members of the 113th United States
23 Congress; and the presiding officers of the legislatures of each of the other 49 states.