

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 15

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES FIELDS, Tuck, Snyder

Introduced: 3/8/21

Referred: House Special Committee on Military and Veterans' Affairs

A RESOLUTION

1 **Requesting the United States Department of Defense to invest in the Port of Alaska.**

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

3 **WHEREAS** the Port of Alaska is one of 17 seaports designated as commercial
4 strategic seaports by the United States Department of Defense; and

5 **WHEREAS** commercial strategic seaports are significant transportation hubs that are
6 important to the readiness and cargo handling capacity of the United States Department of
7 Defense; and

8 **WHEREAS** the Port of Alaska is one of only two commercial strategic seaports
9 located outside of the contiguous United States, and is strategically located near Arctic
10 shipping channels; and

11 **WHEREAS** the Port of Alaska supports four major United States Department of
12 Defense installations, including Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Fort Wainwright, Eielson
13 Air Force Base, and Fort Greely; and

14 **WHEREAS** Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Fort Wainwright, Eielson Air Force
15 Base, and Fort Greely are undergoing critical expansions for fighter jet and missile defense
16 capacity, and the necessary material for these projects is entering the state primarily through

1 the Port of Alaska; and

2 **WHEREAS** the Port of Alaska provides the only fully operational port for handling
3 containers and roll-on-roll-off cargo twice a week and provides goods and commodities that
4 are necessary for base operations and the daily needs of service members; and

5 **WHEREAS** the Port of Alaska is the critical fuel distribution hub for aviation fuel for
6 operations at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson and Eielson Air Force Base; and

7 **WHEREAS** the Port of Alaska is already implementing significant tariff increases to
8 maximize consumer and business contributions to port infrastructure improvements, and the
9 tariffs will not be adequate to fund the critical maintenance that is essential to replace
10 corroded and earthquake-damaged components of the Port of Alaska; and

11 **WHEREAS**, in November of 2019, the Port of Alaska suffered infrastructure damage
12 in a major earthquake, which exacerbated preexisting damage from corrosion; and

13 **WHEREAS** the state's fiscal situation prevents the state from being the sole or
14 primary funder of upgrades to the Port of Alaska;

15 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature requests that the United States
16 Department of Defense augment public and private funding of the Port of Alaska to ensure
17 that the Port of Alaska remains operational and can withstand potential future earthquakes and
18 to guarantee continued support of operations at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Fort
19 Wainwright, Eielson Air Force Base, and Fort Greely.

20 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, President
21 of the United States; the Honorable Kamala Harris, Vice President of the United States and
22 President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the U.S. House of
23 Representatives; the Honorable Lloyd J. Austin III, United States Secretary of Defense; the
24 Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Dan Sullivan, U.S. Senators, and the
25 Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.