

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY MR. GIERSDORF

2 HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 57

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 FIRST LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 TO THE HONORABLE E. R. QUESADA, ADMINISTRATOR OF THE FEDERAL
6 AVIATION AGENCY; THE HONORABLE THOMAS S. GATES, SECRETARY OF
7 DEFENSE; THE HONORABLE JAMES H. DOUGLAS, SECRETARY OF THE AIR
8 FORCE; THE HONORABLE E. L. BARTLETT AND THE HONORABLE ERNEST
9 GREUNING, SENATORS FROM ALASKA; AND THE HONORABLE RALPH J. RIVERS,
10 REPRESENTATIVE FROM ALASKA:

11 Your Memorialist, the Legislature of the State of Alaska in
12 First Legislature, Second Session assembled, respectfully submits
13 that:

14 WHEREAS, the Federal Aviation Agency has frozen federal funds
15 for the runway extension on the Fairbanks International Airport
16 pending a study of possible permanent use of Ladd Air Force Base
17 by civilian aircraft; and

18 WHEREAS, the allocation of \$1,584,325 in federal airport aid
19 funds as well as \$1,035,500 allocated for site preparation and
20 the amount of \$220,000 which the State of Alaska has committed
21 all represent monies available now for the extension project; and

22 WHEREAS, this freeze on funds can only delay the project
23 because of its inevitable need and many merits, but which delay
24 might cause loss of these funds, causing extreme financial
25 difficulties to accomplish the program at a later date; and

26 WHEREAS, by reason of its favorable location and weather
27 Fairbanks is destined to become an international hub of world air
28 travel, and the runway extension would permit not only the States-
29 Alaska jet operations, but would accomodate jet operations on the

1 Polar Routes; and

2 WHEREAS, the runway at Ladd is not sufficient for heavily
3 grossed international operators, and a runway extension at Ladd
4 Air Force Base is not feasible because of terrain, which points
5 to a continued inadequate facility in the Fairbanks area without
6 progressing on the runway extension at Fairbanks International
7 Airport; and

8 WHEREAS, the fickle nature of the federal government, as
9 demonstrated by this action, makes prolonged use of Ladd Air Force
10 Base questionable, because at a later date the use of Ladd Air
11 Force Base could arbitrarily be curtailed by the military; and

12 WHEREAS, this action would leave Fairbanks without adequate
13 runway length at the International Airport, and without permission
14 to use Ladd Air Force Base facilities, which action is clearly
15 detrimental to the public interest, and which would prove irrespon-
16 sible federal planning; and

17 WHEREAS, the air coordinating committee has announced that
18 as a general policy it is against joint use of an airport by
19 civilian and military aircraft, and joint use is not desirable
20 for convenience and safety factors where military operations would
21 of necessity always have priority; and

22 WHEREAS, the general public would suffer further by the
23 nuisance of controlled movement on and off the air base, and
24 further by the lack of terminal space and normal passenger service
25 facilities, which are sadly lacking for military needs, much less
26 the addition of civilian commercial operators needs; and

27 WHEREAS, this ill-advised action is wasteful of the potential
28 of Fairbanks International Airport, it is a betrayal and reversal
29 of years of planning and expressed federal policy, it would

1 deprive the state of tens of thousands of dollars in landing fees,
2 space rentals, and other revenues, and in every way is contrary
3 to the best interests of the general public;

4 NOW THEREFORE, your Memorialist urges the Federal Aviation
5 Agency to reconsider its unfortunate and untimely action in
6 delaying a much needed project by confiscation of our monies and
7 to immediately rescind the freeze of funds for the runway extension
8 of the Fairbanks International Airport.

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