

Introduced: 2/15/67  
Referred: Commerce

1 IN THE SENATE

BY BLODGETT

2 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 9  
3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA  
4 FIFTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Requesting the establishment of star  
6 route mail routes on all "bush mail"  
7 routes now held by Wien Air Alaska  
8 and awarding the routes on a three-  
9 year basis by competitive sealed bid  
10 to state certificated air taxi  
11 operators.

12 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

13 WHEREAS the "bush" towns and villages are not being properly served by  
14 Wien Air Alaska, which presently receives mail pay or subsidy or both for  
15 providing mail on a scheduled basis; and

16 WHEREAS this is borne out by many letters and expressions of complaint  
17 from the "little people" in the "bush" and villages; and

18 WHEREAS the city of the fourth class of Wainwright is a prime example  
19 of disservice by Wien Air Alaska; and

20 WHEREAS Wainwright was more properly served by single engine "bush"  
21 type aircraft on a three times weekly basis directly to Wainwright from  
22 Barrow; and

23 WHEREAS Wainwright is now served indirectly by an F-27 prop jet air-  
24 craft which lands on a DEW-line field located some six miles away across a  
25 roadless expanse negotiable only on foot, by dog team or track laying  
26 vehicle; and

27 WHEREAS even the once weekly schedule is not maintained; and

28 WHEREAS the conduct of air service to Wainwright by Wien Air Alaska  
29 does in fact constitute a severe hardship to the people of Wainwright in

1 that perishable foodstuffs are lost due to freezing, sick people suffer  
2 hardship in negotiating the distance under adverse conditions; and

3 WHEREAS it has been reported that incoming mail has been left on the  
4 field when the Wainwright people or the Wainwright postmaster had not yet  
5 arrived to meet the plane; and

6 WHEREAS mail has been reported to have been blown across the tundra  
7 by "prop blast" from the departing aircraft; and

8 WHEREAS Gambell, Savoonga and Northeast Cape on St. Lawrence Island  
9 are being disserved by Wien Air Alaska with a DC-3 (World War II, C-47)  
10 which is almost continually grounded for mechanical defects, or flights are  
11 too often not completed due to mechanical malfunctions; and

12 WHEREAS the marginal operation of the DC-3 to St. Lawrence Island con-  
13 stitutes a very real disservice to all inhabitants including the personnel  
14 based at Northeast Cape Air Force AC&W and White Alice site; and

15 WHEREAS Wien Air Alaska is not maintaining schedules to such "bush"  
16 communities as Point Hope, Kivalina, Deering, Selawik, Buckland, Shishmaref,  
17 Teller, Wales, Anaktuvuk Pass, Elim, Shaktoolik, White Mountain, Golovin,  
18 Koyuk, Unalakleet, Noatak, Noorvik, Kiana, Shungnak and Ambler; and

19 WHEREAS Wien Air Alaska conducts charter flights or contract flights  
20 other than scheduled mail flights when they are behind on regular schedules;  
21 and

22 WHEREAS the above-mentioned factors constitute a general disservice to  
23 the general public including, but not limited to, "bush" residents, business,  
24 state and federal personnel such as doctors, nurses, social security staff,  
25 fire inspectors, and educators; and

26 WHEREAS it is indicative that firm steps must be taken to rectify the  
27 deplorable conditions of disservice;

28 BE IT RESOLVED that the Postmaster General of the United States, the  
29 Civil Aeronautics Board and Alaska Public Service Commission are requested

1 to take steps in concert to sever all bush routes from Wien Air Alaska's  
2 route structure; and be it

3 FURTHER RESOLVED that the communities to be served be broken down into  
4 increments of one to seven according to reasonable distribution points or  
5 bases of operation and cause these increments to be placed on competitive  
6 bid contracts on a three-year basis. These contracts to be available to  
7 bid only by state certificated air taxi operators actually based in the area  
8 to be served before the contract is advertised.

9 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to Honorable Walter J. Hickel,  
10 Governor of Alaska; the Honorable Lawrence F. O'Brien, Postmaster General;  
11 the Honorable Charles S. Murphy, Chairman, Civil Aeronautics Board; the  
12 Honorable General Wm. F. McKee, Administrator, Federal Aviation Agency; the  
13 Honorable John T. Connor, Secretary of Commerce; the Honorable Warren G.  
14 Magnuson, Chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee; the Honorable Harley O.  
15 Stagers, Chairman of the House Interstate and Foreign Commerce; the  
16 Honorable George Sharrock, Commissioner of Commerce; the Honorable James  
17 Hendershot, Acting Executive Director of the Alaska Public Service Commis-  
18 sion; and to the Honorable E. L. Bartlett and the Honorable Ernest Gruening,  
19 U. S. Senators, and the Honorable Howard W. Pollock, U. S. Representative,  
20 members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.