

Introduced: 2/11/69
Referred: State Affairs

BY REEVES, ANDERSON, BANFIELD,
BOARDMAN, BRONSON, CORNELIUS,
DEVEAU, ELIASON, PERATROVICH,
AND RAY

1 IN THE HOUSE

2 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 15

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 SIXTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Relating to the automation of certain
6 manned light stations in Alaska.

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

8 WHEREAS the local "Notice to Mariners" of October 10, 1968 contained
9 notice that the Coast Guard planned to automate or disestablish attended
10 light stations throughout Alaska and comments of mariners on this proposal
11 were solicited; and

12 WHEREAS the actual effect of automation, with regard to the future
13 status of the marine radio, aeronautical radio beacon, and weather reporting
14 services, was not made clear in the limited distribution publication, thus
15 effectively denying much of the public comment which would have been forth-
16 coming; and

17 WHEREAS public feeling is quite strong against abolition of the present
18 functions of the manned light stations because they provide valuable and,
19 in many cases, the only aids to marine and aeronautical navigation; and

20 WHEREAS air and water transportation are the principal means of cargo
21 and passenger carriage in the state, particularly in Southern Alaska where
22 no other means of transportation are available; and

23 WHEREAS, because aeronautical radio beacons are of particular importance
24 to air transportation, not only as enroute navigational aids, but also as
25 terminal instrument approach and departure aids, their disestablishment
26 would mean decreasing the reliability of airline service, derogating safety,
27 and otherwise hindering air transportation; and

28 WHEREAS the light station-originated weather reports are of particular
29 importance in Southern Alaska, which is subject to extremely changeable and

1 severe weather, and where mariners and airmen in low-flying aircraft are
2 totally at the mercy of the elements; and

3 WHEREAS communications to the major radio stations on ship-to-shore
4 radio is extremely difficult because the high mountains and the large ore
5 bodies present in most areas disrupt transmission, necessitating relayed
6 messages by direct communications with the manned light stations in emergency
7 situations; and

8 WHEREAS, since the Coast Guard has traditionally provided radio com-
9 munication, aeronautical radio beacons and weather and sea conditions from
10 its light stations, it would be extremely hazardous to discontinue these
11 services until provisions for adequate alternatives have been made; and

12 BE IT RESOLVED that the Coast Guard, in keeping with its important role
13 within the Department of Transportation, is urgently requested to continue
14 its manned light stations and the services it has traditionally provided for
15 mariners and airmen past the terminal date of 1973, on a permanent basis if
16 possible.

17 COPIES of this Resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Richard M.
18 Nixon, President of the United States; the Honorable John Volpe, Secretary of
19 Transportation; Admiral Willard J. Smith, United States Coast Guard Comman-
20 dant; Rear Admiral Robert E. Hammond, Commander of the 17th Coast Guard
21 District; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Mike Gravel,
22 U. S. Senators, and the Honorable Howard W. Pollock, U. S. Representative,
23 members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.