

1 IN THE SENATE

BY BLODGETT

2 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 61

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 SIXTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Requesting the establishment of star
6 route mail routes on all "bush mail"
7 routes now held by Wien Consolidated
8 Airlines and awarding the routes on a
9 three-year basis by competitive sealed
10 bid 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 Consolidated Airlines, which presently receives mail pay or subsidy or
15 both for 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 Consolidated Airlines; 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 Consolidated
29 Airlines does in fact constitute a severe hardship to the people of Wainwright

1 in 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 Consolidated Airlines with a DC-3 (World War
10 II, C-47) which is almost continually grounded for mechanical defects, or
11 flights are 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 Consolidated Airlines is not maintaining schedules to such
16 "bush" communities as Point Hope, Kivalina, Derring, Selawik, Buckland,
17 Shishmaref, Teller, Wales, Anaktuvuk Pass, Elim, Shaktoolik, White Mountain,
18 Golovin, Koyuk, Unalakleet, Noatak, Noorvik, Kiana, Shungnak and Ambler; and

19 WHEREAS Wien Consolidated Airlines conducts charter flights or contract
20 flights other than scheduled mail flights when they are behind on regular
21 schedules; 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 Consolidated
2 Airlines' 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 the Honorable Keith H.
10 Miller, Governor of Alaska; the Honorable Winton Blount, Postmaster General;
11 the Chairman, Civil Aeronautics Board; the Honorable David D. Thomas, Acting
12 Administrator, Federal Aviation Agency; the Honorable Maurice Stans, Secre-
13 tary of Commerce; the Honorable Warren G. Magnuson, Chairman of the Senate
14 Commerce Committee; the Honorable Harley O. Staggers, Chairman of the House
15 Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee; the Honorable Walter Kubley,
16 Commissioner of Commerce; the Honorable Donald E. Hall, Executive Director
17 of the Alaska Public Service Commission; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens
18 and the Honorable Mike Gravel, U. S. Senators, and the Honorable Howard W.
19 Pollock, U. S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.
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