

Introduced: 1/28/70  
Referred: State Affairs

1 IN THE SENATE

BY BLODGETT

2 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 75

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 SIXTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Relating to air craft landing facili-  
6 ties on Little Diomedé Island.

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

8 WHEREAS the people of Little Diomedé Island reside there under the most  
9 rigorous of conditions, isolated from the mainland and denied access to it  
10 by marine transportation, other than for very short periods, and permitted  
11 access to the mainland by air only when the unpredictable ice conditions  
12 during the winter allow landing on the ice; and

13 WHEREAS Little Diomedé Island's physical characteristics are not condu-  
14 cive to making the construction of an all-weather air field economically or  
15 physically feasible because of the terrain, weather conditions and lack of  
16 materials; and

17 WHEREAS this island is situated on the periphery of the United States,  
18 immediately adjacent to the Soviet Union's Big Diomedé Island; and

19 WHEREAS the people of Little Diomedé Island, American citizens all,  
20 render very real service to the state, nation and the free world by their  
21 personal surveillance of Russian activities and immediate reporting of  
22 important intelligence information; and

23 WHEREAS the U.S.S.R. maintains military installations on Big Diomedé  
24 Island less than two miles away; and

25 WHEREAS regular air service is maintained to Big Diomedé Island by  
26 helicopter from mainland Russia; and

27 WHEREAS it is very obvious that it is important to maintain the sur-  
28 veillance of Soviet activities and to insure the reporting of important  
29 intelligence information to the appropriate federal officials;

1 BE IT RESOLVED that the President of the United States is respectfully  
2 requested to authorize the Secretary of Defense and other appropriate offi-  
3 cials to proceed with dispatch to provide for the placement of an escort  
4 carrier immediately adjacent to the village of Little Diomedé and to provide  
5 for its being berthed permanently in that position by securing it with riprap  
6 which is available at the proposed location, thereby providing Little Diomedé  
7 Island with an important year-round air strip and, as a fringe benefit, pro-  
8 viding the extremely ill-housed islanders with living quarters aboard the  
9 carrier.

10 COPIES of this Resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Richard M.  
11 Nixon, President of the United States; the Honorable Melvin R. Laird, Secre-  
12 tary of Defense; the Honorable John H. Chafee, Secretary of the Navy; and to  
13 the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Mike Gravel, U. S. Senators, and  
14 the Honorable Howard W. Pollock, U. S. Representative, members of the Alaska  
15 delegation in Congress.