

Introduced: 3/22/73
Referred: Judiciary

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY DEGNAN

2 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 51 *Am*

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 EIGHTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Relating to emergency medical evacu-
6 ation and mail service for Little
7 Diomede.

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

9 WHEREAS the island and the village of Little Diomede do not have an
10 airport or airstrip and it is not considered feasible to build an airstrip
11 on that island due to its rugged terrain; and

12 WHEREAS the island can be reached by aircraft from anywhere in the
13 state only six months out of each year; by float plane during three months
14 of the summer and by ski plane during three months of the winter; and

15 WHEREAS the island is totally isolated and inaccessible from the rest
16 of the state for one-half of each year, during the freezing and the break-up
17 of the ice when neither float nor ski planes can land, and during these
18 periods the island cannot receive mail service or emergency medical evacua-
19 tion from the mainland of Alaska; and

20 WHEREAS it is understood that the nearby island of Big Diomede has a
21 year-round airstrip maintained by the U.S.S.R. and that during the majority
22 of the year the island of Big Diomede could be reached by the inhabitants of
23 Little Diomede without extreme difficulty;

24 BE IT RESOLVED that the President of the United States is respectfully
25 requested to investigate the possibility of reaching an agreement with the
26 government of the U.S.S.R. for the delivery of mail, freight and passenger
27 service to the inhabitants of Little Diomede through the cooperation of the
28 U.S.S.R. and the use of the airstrip at Big Diomede; and be it

29 FURTHER RESOLVED that the President of the United States is requested

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2 to take immediate and necessary steps to achieve an agreement with the
3 government of the U.S.S.R. establishing procedures for emergency medical
4 evacuation for the inhabitants of Little Diomedede through the cooperation of
5 the U.S.S.R. and the use of the airstrip at Big Diomedede.

6 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Richard M.
7 Nixon, President of the United States; the Honorable William P. Rogers,
8 Secretary of State; the Honorable Claude Brinegar, Secretary of Transporta-
9 tion; and the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Mike Gravel, U. S.
10 Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U. S. Representative, members of the
11 Alaska delegation in Congress.
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