

Introduced: 3/29/74
Referred: State Affairs

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY THE RULES COMMITTEE
BY REQUEST

2 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 99

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 EIGHTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Relating to the continuation of
6 operation by the mail boat, the
7 BETTE R.

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

9 WHEREAS it has been announced by the operator of the mail boat, the
10 BETTE R., that effective immediately he will be unable to continue mail
11 service to several southeastern communities; and

12 WHEREAS this cessation of service is due to rising costs and the pending
13 commencement of regular ferry service to Hoonah; and

14 WHEREAS, even though Hoonah will continue to receive mail and surface
15 freight via the new ferry, the LeCONTE, Hoonah was the major income source
16 of the owner of the mail boat, and the loss of income for delivering mail
17 and freight to Hoonah makes it economically impossible for the BETTE R. to
18 continue servicing the other southeastern communities on its route; and

19 WHEREAS the cessation of service by the BETTE R. will affect the
20 communities of Pelican, Elfin Cove, Gustavus, Tenakee Springs, and Funter,
21 thereby prohibiting the many Alaskans living in these communities from
22 receiving mail and freight except by other than surface transportation, which
23 will push the already escalated cost of living to a point beyond reason; and

24 WHEREAS it is possible that the badly needed services of the BETTE R.
25 can be retained if the United States Postal Service will agree to an equit-
26 able adjustment of the flat fee now paid to the operator of the BETTE R. to
27 an amount whereby service to the communities listed above could be economi-
28 cally continued; and

29 WHEREAS the present rates for the service provided were set in 1969,

1 and those rates are totally unrealistic in terms of today's costs;

2 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that it urgently requests
3 the United States Postal Service immediately to increase the fees paid for
4 the BETTE R. to an amount to assure the economic feasibility of continuing
5 the operation of the BETTE R. to provide mail service to southeastern com-
6 munities.

7 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Elmer T.
8 Klassen, Postmaster General, United States Postal Service; the Honorable
9 Gale W. McGee, Chairman, Senate Post Office and Civil Service Committee;
10 the Honorable Thaddeus J. Dulski, Chairman, House Post Office and Civil
11 Service Committee; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Mike
12 Gravel, U. S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U. S. Representative,
13 members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.
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