

Introduced: 1/23/73
Referred: State Affairs

1 IN THE SENATE

BY RAY AND HENSLEY

2 *CS* SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 7

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 EIGHTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Objecting to the United States
6 Postal Service decision to ship bulk
7 mail by surface transportation to
8 and from the Alaska Panhandle and
9 requesting the service to rescind
10 that decision.

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

12 WHEREAS the United States Postal Service has once again foisted on the
13 people of Alaska a determination to relegate the state to "second-class"
14 status among the states of the Union by its recent decision to switch from
15 space-available air transportation to surface shipment of most second- and
16 all third- and fourth-class mail within Alaska to and from the Panhandle;
17 and

18 WHEREAS this downgrading of service was presented in the guise of an
19 improvement of service and an aid to the state by strengthening land and
20 water transportation capabilities; and

21 WHEREAS such a rationalization is an insult to the intelligence of the
22 people of the state; and

23 WHEREAS just because the state is by geographical circumstance non-
24 contiguous with the other states does not mean Alaska should be denigrated
25 in such a manner, but rather its geographical circumstances require a high
26 priority for postal service; and

27 WHEREAS the use of surface transportation between Anchorage and Juneau,
28 Sitka and Ketchikan will assuredly result in reduction of the level of ser-
29 vice, which is poor enough already, because the state is without an adequate

1 highway system and because under the new plan mail will be shipped into and
2 out of Southeast Alaska by truck only twice a week coupled with the addi-
3 tional necessity of transfer to the state ferry system; and

4 WHEREAS this retrogression to methods used in pre-commercial air trans-
5 port days will place an undue burden and hardship on the people of Alaska in
6 their communications with persons inside and outside the state as well as
7 impeding trade and commerce both intra- and interstate;

8 BE IT RESOLVED by the Eighth Alaska Legislature that the United States
9 Postal Service decision on bulk mail shipment is strenuously objected to,
10 and the Postal Service is urgently requested to immediately take the neces-
11 sary action to restore second-, third- and fourth-class mail service into
12 and out of the Panhandle of Alaska to a space-available air transportation
13 status.

14 COPIES of this Resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Elmer Kassen,
15 Postmaster General; the Honorable Gale W. McGee, Chairman, Senate Committee
16 on the Post Office and Civil Service; the Honorable Thaddeus J. Dulski,
17 Chairman, House Committee on the Post Office and Civil Service; and to the
18 Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Mike Gravel, U. S. Senators, members
19 of the Alaska delegation in Congress.
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29