

Original sponsor: Ray and Hensley

Offered: 1/25/73
Referred: Rules

1 IN THE SENATE

BY THE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

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CS FOR SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 7

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

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EIGHTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

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Objecting to the United States

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Postal Service decision to ship bulk

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mail by surface transportation to

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and from Alaska and between points

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in Alaska, and requesting the service

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to rescind that decision.

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

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WHEREAS the United States Postal Service has discriminated against the

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people of Alaska by its determination to relegate the state to "second-class"

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status among the states of the Union by its recent decision to switch from

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space-available air transportation to surface shipment of most second- and

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all third- and fourth-class mail within Alaska; and

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WHEREAS this downgrading of service was presented in the guise of an

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improvement of service and an aid to the state by strengthening land and

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water transportation capabilities; and

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WHEREAS such a rationalization is not accepted by the people of the

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state; and

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WHEREAS just because the state is by geographical circumstance non-

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contiguous with the other states does not mean Alaska should be denigrated

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in such a manner, but rather its geographical circumstances require a high

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priority for postal service; and

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WHEREAS the use of surface transportation between communities in Alaska

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will assuredly result in reduction of the level of service, which is poor

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enough already, because the state is without an adequate highway system and

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because under the new plan mail will be shipped into and out of Southeast

1 Alaska by truck only twice a week coupled with the additional necessity of
2 transfer to the state ferry system, and because of similar slowdown of ser-
3 vice to other Alaskan communities; 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 Alaska and between points in Alaska to a space-available air
13 transportation 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.
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