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Referred: State Affairs

1 IN THE SENATE

BY RAY

CS

2 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 18

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 NINTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Relating to the closure of the USARAL
6 Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS)
7 command radio station, AB7USA.

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

9 WHEREAS the United States Army has announced plans for the closure of
10 the USARAL Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS) command radio station,
11 AB7USA, on Fort Richardson; and

12 WHEREAS this command radio station provides valuable communications
13 links with many rural areas of Alaska where there are many amateur radio
14 operators who are active MARS members; and

15 WHEREAS this station was instrumental in the 1964 earthquake in that
16 it alone handled over 52,000 messages of inquiry and health and welfare; and

17 WHEREAS, during the 1967 Fairbanks flood, it was one of the main central
18 control stations which was able to handle all of the inquiries; and

19 WHEREAS, more recently, the station was again the focal point of emer-
20 gency communications control during the Nome disaster; and

21 WHEREAS the closure of this station would seriously hinder emergency
22 amateur radio and MARS radio communications for Alaska in times of disaster
23 and emergency; and

24 WHEREAS operation of the station only requires two full-time operators;
25 and

26 WHEREAS MARS consists mainly of civilian amateur radio operators who
27 have affiliated themselves with the USARAL MARS program to complement existing
28 military and civilian communities in times of need; and

29 WHEREAS the entire USARAL MARS program is dependent on the Fort

1 Richardson command station;

2 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that it vigorously pro-
3 tests the announced closure of the United States Army MARS command station
4 and urgently requests the United States Army to immediately cancel any and
5 all plans for the closing of the command station at Fort Richardson.

6 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Howard H.
7 Callaway, Secretary of the Army; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the
8 Honorable Mike Gravel, U. S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U. S.
9 Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.