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Referred: State Affairs

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY THE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 87

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

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ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5

Requesting the United States Postal

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Service to establish a philatelic

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service center in Alaska.

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

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WHEREAS, since the issuance of the first commemorative United States

postage stamp in Alaska in 1937, eight commemorative and regular United

States postage stamps have been first issued in the 49th State; and

12 WHEREAS the public attention focused on these events has generated ever
13 increasing interest in stamp collecting; and

14 WHEREAS, due to this interest in the hobby, the four organized stamp
15 clubs in the state have experienced substantial increases in membership in
16 recent years; and

17 WHEREAS the United States Postal Service, through extensive media ad-
18 vertising and the promotion of various postal products and philatelic ser-
19 vices, has been vigorously encouraging stamp collecting; and

20 WHEREAS, to fill the demands of stamp collectors, the United States
21 Postal Service has established philatelic service centers in post offices in
22 major cities throughout the nation; and

23 WHEREAS, despite these promotional activities, many postage stamp items,
24 postal stationery, and other philatelic materials issued by the United States
25 Postal Service are not available to collectors or postal patrons at even the
26 largest post offices in Alaska; and

27 WHEREAS, as a result, Alaskan stamp collectors must request items from
28 the United States Postal Service's Philatelic Service Agency in Washington,
29 D. C. or obtain them at philatelic service centers in other states; and

1 WHEREAS, despite the substantial interest in philately, Alaska, vir-
2 tually alone among the 50 states, lacks a philatelic service center; and

3 WHEREAS it is apparent that the interest in stamp collecting as a hobby,
4 the size of the active stamp collecting public in Alaska, and the activity of
5 the Anchorage Philatelic Society, the Gastineau Philatelic Society of Juneau,
6 the Northern Lights Stamp Club of Fairbanks, and the Ptarmigan Stamp and Coin
7 Club of Anchorage warrant the opening of a properly staffed, well-stocked
8 philatelic service center in one of Alaska's major cities; and

9 WHEREAS sales of postage stamps and other postal materials to stamp
10 collectors result in substantial profit to the United States Postal Service
11 since few of the items sold to collectors are ever used as postage for trans-
12 mission of mail;

13 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States
14 Postal Service to establish, operate and maintain a full-time philatelic
15 service center, staffed by qualified personnel, with a complete inventory of
16 available United States postage stamps, postal stationery, and other postal
17 materials and philatelic supplies in one of the major cities in Alaska.

18 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable William F.
19 Bolger, Postmaster General of the United States; Mr. Robert J. Opinsky,
20 Postmaster of Anchorage, Mr. Otis Dean, Postmaster of Fairbanks; Mr. Lawrence
21 Jackson, Postmaster of Juneau; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the
22 Honorable Mike Gravel, U. S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U. S.
23 Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.

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