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Referred: Finance

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1 IN THE HOUSE

2 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 17 am S

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 TWELFTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Relating to an amendment to the Con-
6 stitution of the United States which
7 would require that total federal
8 appropriations not exceed total
9 estimated federal revenues in a
10 fiscal year in the absence of a
11 national emergency.

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

13 WHEREAS annually the United States moves more deeply into debt as its
14 expenditures exceed its available revenues and the public debt now exceeds
15 hundreds of billions of dollars; and

16 WHEREAS annually the federal budget demonstrates the unwillingness or
17 inability of the federal government to spend in conformity with available
18 revenues; and

19 WHEREAS proper planning, fiscal prudence, and plain good sense require
20 that the federal budget be in balance absent national emergency; and

21 WHEREAS a continuously unbalanced federal budget except in a national
22 emergency causes continuous and damaging inflation and consequently a severe
23 threat to the political and economic stability of the United States; and

24 WHEREAS, under Article V of the Constitution of the United States,
25 amendments to the Constitution may be proposed by Congress or, on the appli-
26 cation of the legislatures of two-thirds of the states, Congress shall call
27 a constitutional convention for the purpose of proposing amendments;

28 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the Congress of the
29 United States is requested to propose and submit to the states an amendment

1 to the Constitution of the United States which would require that within
2 four years after its ratification by the various states, in the absence of a
3 national emergency, the total of all appropriations made by Congress for a
4 fiscal year shall not exceed the total of all estimated federal revenues for
5 that fiscal year; and be it

6 FURTHER RESOLVED that, alternatively, this body makes application and
7 requests that the Congress of the United States call a convention for the
8 sole and exclusive purpose of proposing an amendment to the Constitution of
9 the United States which would require that, in the absence of a national
10 emergency, the total of all appropriations made by Congress for a fiscal
11 year shall not exceed the total of all estimated federal revenues for that
12 fiscal year; and be it

13 FURTHER RESOLVED that if Congress proposes such an amendment to the
14 Constitution this application shall no longer be of any force or effect; and
15 be it

16 FURTHER RESOLVED that this application and request shall no longer be
17 of any force or effect if the convention is not limited to the exclusive
18 purpose specified by this resolution.

19 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Secretary of the United
20 States Senate; the Clerk of the United States House of Representatives; to
21 the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U. S. Senators,
22 and the Honorable Don Young, U. S. Representative, members of the Alaska
23 delegation in Congress.