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Referred: State Affairs

1 IN THE SENATE

BY FERGUSON

2 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 17

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 TWELFTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Relating to the operation of a  
6 manned weather station by the  
7 National Weather Service at Unala-  
8 kleet.

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

10 WHEREAS the comfort and safety of all Alaskans are increased by the  
11 availability of accurate and timely reports and forecasts of weather condi-  
12 tions; and

13 WHEREAS the climate and topography of this state are such that weather  
14 conditions often change dramatically in a short period of time; and

15 WHEREAS Alaskans rely heavily on air transportation and particularly  
16 small aircraft in the more remote areas of the state; and

17 WHEREAS air travel is particularly susceptible to the impact of changing  
18 weather conditions; and

19 WHEREAS the city of Unalakleet is situated in an area subject to widely  
20 varying weather conditions and where the absence of an extensive road network  
21 results in an increased reliance on travel by air; and

22 WHEREAS Unalakleet has been notified by the National Weather Service  
23 that it intends to terminate its operation of a manned station at Unalakleet;  
24 and

25 WHEREAS the operation of an unmanned weather station at Unalakleet will  
26 have a deleterious effect on the availability of accurate and timely weather  
27 reports and forecasts for the area;

28 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature requests the National  
29 Weather Service to continue its operation of a manned weather station at

1 Unalakleet with sufficient personnel to staff the station at least between  
2 the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. each day.

3 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to Mr. Richard Hallgren,  
4 Director of the National Weather Service; Mr. Stewart Bigler, Regional  
5 Director of the National Weather Service; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens  
6 and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don  
7 Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.  
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