

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY KOPONEN AND DAVIS

2

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 32

3

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

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THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

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Relating to the use of military equip-

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ment for fighting fires in Alaska.

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

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WHEREAS the state is dependent on available military equipment that is  
9 excess to military needs for fighting fires in the state; and

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WHEREAS the state and local governments of the state have historically  
11 relied on excess and available military equipment for essential aircraft,  
12 bulldozers, and other vehicles useful in the fight against forest fires in  
13 the state; and

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WHEREAS, if the state and local governments are required to purchase  
15 or contract in the private sector for excess equipment traditionally ob-  
16 tained from the military, the expense will be prohibitive; and

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WHEREAS reasonable fiscal and public policy requires that military  
18 equipment paid for by the taxpayers of the nation continue to serve public  
19 needs, including fire protection, when that equipment is not required for  
20 military purposes; and

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WHEREAS sec. 765A of the Department of Defense Appropriation Act of  
22 1981 (P.L. 97-114) has been interpreted to prohibit the Department of  
23 Defense from making aircraft, bulldozers, and other vehicles excess to the  
24 needs of the department available to the state and local governments of the  
25 state for use in fighting fires; and

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WHEREAS sec. 765A of the Department of Defense Appropriation Act of  
27 1981 prohibits the disposal of aircraft or vehicles to the state or local  
28 governments in Alaska only "when suitable aircraft or vehicles are commer-  
29 cially available in the private sector"; and

1           WHEREAS "suitable aircraft or vehicles" are not in fact generally  
2 available to the state for lease from the private sector;

3           BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests  
4 Congress to delete sec. 765A from future Department of Defense appro-  
5 priation acts; and be it

6           FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of Defense is respectfully re-  
7 quested to interpret sec. 765A as not prohibiting the disposal of surplus  
8 aircraft, bulldozers, and other vehicles to the use of state and local  
9 governments for the purpose of fighting fires in Alaska unless the Secre-  
10 tary determines that aircraft, bulldozers, and other vehicles are in fact  
11 available in the private sector.

12           COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Ronald  
13 Reagan, President of the United States; the Honorable Casper Weinberger,  
14 Secretary of Defense; the Honorable George Bush, Vice-President of the  
15 United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Thomas P.  
16 O'Neill, Jr., Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; and to the  
17 Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and  
18 the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delega-  
19 tion in Congress.