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1 IN THE HOUSE

2

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 67

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

FOURTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5

Requesting the United States Congress to

6

establish advanced all-weather satellite

7

coverage of North Pacific waters.

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

9 WHEREAS remote sensing of the ocean is playing an increasingly impor-  
10 tant role in fishery research, fish harvesting, and marine safety along the  
11 Pacific Coast of the United States and Canada; and

12 WHEREAS satellite sensors give a unique view of the ocean surface and  
13 provide extensive and detailed images of sea surface temperature, color,  
14 mixed layer depth, currents, and wave action; and

15 WHEREAS the oceanic measurements taken by the satellite are used in  
16 determining variations in ocean conditions that play key roles in causing  
17 fluctuations in stocks of fishes and their vulnerability to harvesting; and

18 WHEREAS this timely information on the changing ocean, rather than on  
19 average ocean conditions, is necessary to understand and eventually predict  
20 the effects of the marine environment on fish populations; and

21 WHEREAS up-to-date weather information can provide the fishing fleet  
22 accurate weather data that will increase the safety and efficiency of fish  
23 harvesting; and

24 WHEREAS the use of satellite sensors combined with conventional data  
25 collection techniques provides a powerful tool toward ensuring the wise use  
26 of living marine resources; and

27 WHEREAS this information can provide valuable clues as to where for-  
28 eign fishing fleets may be targeting certain North American fish stocks on  
29 the high seas; and

1           WHEREAS these clues can lead the United States Coast Guard and other  
2 enforcement agencies to the precise locations where harmful interception of  
3 North American fish are taking place; and

4           WHEREAS several manufacturers have developed oceanographic color  
5 displays designed to receive signals from a satellite and to display, in  
6 color, an absolute surface temperature distribution for a large water area;  
7 and

8           WHEREAS in order to provide this information to fishermen, enforcement  
9 agencies, and research facilities, receiving stations need to be estab-  
10 lished in Alaska to monitor the North Pacific region; and

11           WHEREAS an all-weather satellite is needed to provide this detailed  
12 information because it is not dependent on cloud cover conditions;

13           BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature finds establishment  
14 of all-weather satellite and receiving stations would benefit the fisher-  
15 men, marine researchers, enforcement agents, and merchant mariners of the  
16 United States and Alaska; and be it

17           FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully re-  
18 quests the United States Congress to establish an all-weather monitoring  
19 satellite for the waters of the North Pacific Ocean and appropriate Alaska  
20 receiving stations; and be it

21           FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature also requests that funds be  
22 allocated for the purchase of oceanographic color displays for the receiv-  
23 ing stations and for the distribution of this data to fishermen, re-  
24 searchers, enforcement agencies, and merchant mariners.

25           COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Ronald  
26 Reagan, President of the United States; the Honorable George Bush, Vice-  
27 President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honor-  
28 able Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill, Speaker of the U. S. House of Representa-  
29 tives; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski,

1 U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of  
2 the Alaska delegation in Congress.