

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY ULMER AND HUDSON

2

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 16

3

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5

Relating to United States Coast Guard

6

reorganization.

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

8 WHEREAS the Commandant of the United States Coast Guard has announced  
9 a plan to relocate 78 military and civilian positions from Alaska, all of  
10 which are currently located in Juneau; and

11 WHEREAS the plan will have an inordinate effect on Juneau, forcing an  
12 estimated 360 people to relocate at a time when Juneau and the state as a  
13 whole are suffering from a substantial population loss because of an eco-  
14 nomic downturn; and

15 WHEREAS the relocation plan is likely to result in less active en-  
16 forcement of fishing laws in the intense fisheries of the state, which  
17 could have a negative effect on the state's economy and efforts to develop  
18 international trade; and

19 WHEREAS the fatality rate from recreational boating accidents in  
20 Alaska is 20 times the national average, so it is imperative that the U.S.  
21 Coast Guard maintain its ability to provide timely response on rescue  
22 missions; and

23 WHEREAS the increasing vessel activity in the Gulf of Alaska, national  
24 security interests, and increasing foreign fishing off Alaska all indicate  
25 a need for a greater U.S. Coast Guard presence in Alaska; and

26 WHEREAS the state's geographic isolation from the rest of the nation,  
27 unique environment, and vast coastal area make it impossible for the U.S.  
28 Coast Guard to cover Alaska from bases outside the state;

29 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature opposes the portion

1 of the United States Coast Guard reorganization plan that calls for the  
2 relocation of Coast Guard personnel from Alaska; and be it

3       **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature supports efforts by  
4 the Alaska delegation in the Congress to keep United States Coast Guard  
5 positions in Alaska and to centralize support services in Alaska, rather  
6 than in other locations in the United States.

7       **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to Admiral Paul A. Yost,  
8 Commandant, U.S. Coast Guard; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the  
9 Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S.  
10 Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.