

Original sponsors: Donley, Gruenberg,  
Boyer, et al.

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY THE LABOR AND  
COMMERCE COMMITTEE

2 CS FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 19 (L&C)(title am)

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Relating to resident hire on federal  
6 projects and jobs in the state.

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

8 WHEREAS because of its unique climate and its distance from the con-  
9 tiguous states, Alaska has historically suffered from unique social, geo-  
10 graphic, and economic conditions that result in an unstable economy; and

11 WHEREAS the promotion of a resident-based workforce is good local,  
12 state, and federal public policy; and

13 WHEREAS the rate of unemployment among residents of the state is one  
14 of the highest in the nation; and

15 WHEREAS the unstable economy is a hardship on the residents of the  
16 state and is aggravated by the large numbers of seasonal and transient  
17 workers; and

18 WHEREAS chronic unemployment leads to severe social problems, includ-  
19 ing crime, alcoholism, domestic violence, suicide, child abuse, and drug  
20 abuse; and

21 WHEREAS the number of state residents who are unable to find work is  
22 considerably higher than is reflected by unemployment rates based on na-  
23 tionally accepted measures, in part because many rural state residents who  
24 wish to work do not seek employment as frequently as necessary to meet  
25 federal definitions of unemployment because of continuing lack of employ-  
26 ment opportunities in rural areas of the state; and

27 WHEREAS construction projects funded wholly or partially with federal  
28 funds have traditionally accounted for a substantial percentage of the  
29 available employment in the state; and

1       WHEREAS federal construction spending in Alaska has a significantly  
2 greater effect on the state's economy than is the case in most other  
3 states; and

4       WHEREAS permanent, temporary, and seasonal jobs funded through federal  
5 agencies such as the Bureau of Land Management and the National Park Ser-  
6 vice have traditionally accounted for a substantial percentage of the  
7 available jobs in Alaska, particularly in rural areas of the state; and

8       WHEREAS it is inherently fair that unemployed local residents in areas  
9 of high unemployment have first chance at being hired for jobs created by  
10 government spending in those areas; and

11       WHEREAS, for constitutional reasons, many aspects of laws requiring  
12 local hire for government funded projects are better addressed by federal  
13 legislation than by state legislation;

14       BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature encourages the feder-  
15 al government to hire as many state residents as possible and practicable  
16 for federal positions located in the state, including temporary and season-  
17 al positions; and be it

18       FURTHER RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that members of the  
19 Alaska delegation in Congress are requested to introduce and seek the  
20 passage of federal legislation giving an employment preference to unem-  
21 ployed qualified state residents on all construction projects in the state  
22 that are wholly or partially funded with federal funds.

23       COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Ronald  
24 Reagan, President of the United States; the Honorable Malcolm Baldrige,  
25 Secretary of Commerce; the Honorable Caspar W. Weinberger, Secretary of  
26 Defense; the Honorable Donald P. Hodel, Secretary of the Interior; the  
27 Honorable William E. Brock III, Secretary of Labor; the Honorable Ted  
28 Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable  
29 Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in

1 Congress; and to John Katz, Director of State/Federal Relations, Office of  
2 the Governor.