

BY DAVIDSON, HUDSON, HOFFMAN,
GRUENBERG, MENARD, GOLL, LARSON
ULMER, SUND, DAVIS, AND
GRUSSENDORF

1 IN THE HOUSE

2

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 52

3

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5

Opposing reductions in the budget of the

6

United States Coast Guard.

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

8

WHEREAS the budget of the United States Coast Guard for fiscal year

9

1988 has been reduced by \$100,000,000; and

10

WHEREAS this budget reduction does not permit the Coast Guard to

11

perform its mission, maintain its physical plant and equipment, and pay its

12

personnel; and

13

WHEREAS the budget reductions will drastically and adversely affect

14

the quality and quantity of services that the Coast Guard provides in the

15

waters of and off Alaska; and

16

WHEREAS the Coast Guard in Alaska has performed 5,597 search and

17

rescue missions in the last five years, saving 1,314 lives; and

18

WHEREAS the budget reductions will be felt in Alaska as

19

(1) an absence of law enforcement to prevent fishing violations

20

in the Gulf of Alaska and the waters of Southeast Alaska;

21

(2) a reduction in the number and duration of fishery patrols in

22

the Bering Sea due to the reduction in the operations of the high endurance

23

and medium endurance cutters and long range aircraft necessary to conduct

24

these patrols;

25

(3) elimination of six VHF-FM coastal distress radio sites;

26

(4) reduction of staffing at the Marine Safety Office at Valdez,

27

the southern terminus of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline;

28

(5) an increased possibility that lighted aids to navigation

29

will become extinguished before they can be serviced; and

1 (6) numerous other reductions in services provided to mariners
2 and the public; and

3 WHEREAS there is evidence of extensive illegal fishing in the 200-mile
4 fishing zone in the Bering Sea by foreign fishing vessels; and

5 WHEREAS 129 different foreign vessels were sighted in the inter-
6 national waters of the Bering Sea during 1987; and

7 WHEREAS inadequate enforcement of foreign fishing results in over
8 exploitation of the fish stocks and deprives American fishermen and pro-
9 cessing workers of their jobs and the United States of a market for its
10 fishery products, thus eliminating an opportunity to correct the imbalance
11 of trade with Japan and other countries; and

12 WHEREAS fishermen, sailors, and boaters on the waters of and off
13 Alaska rely on the vital service the Coast Guard provides by being on call
14 24 hours of each day to assist in the protection of property and the lives
15 of those who are in peril at sea; and

16 WHEREAS the reductions in the budget of the Coast Guard for meeting
17 its operational responsibilities puts the lives of our friends and neigh-
18 bors at risk;

19 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully ex-
20 presses its strongest possible objection to the reductions that have been
21 made to the United States Coast Guard budget for fiscal year 1988; and be
22 it

23 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully re-
24 quests that the budget for the Coast Guard be restored to that level neces-
25 sary to allow the Coast Guard to fully perform its mission, maintain its
26 physical plant and equipment, and pay its active and retired personnel.

27 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Ronald
28 Reagan, President of the United States; to the Honorable George Bush,
29 Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; to

1 the Honorable James H. Burnley IV, Secretary of Transportation; to Admiral
2 Paul A. Yost, Jr., Coast Guard Commandant; to Rear Admiral Edward Nelson,
3 Jr., Commander 17th Coast Guard District; to the Honorable Jim Wright,
4 Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable John C.
5 Stennis, Chairman of the U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations; the
6 Honorable Jamie L. Whitten, Chairman of the U.S. House of Representatives
7 Committee on Appropriations; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the
8 Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S.
9 Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.