

Introduced: 2/9/87
Referred: Transportation

5-0573A

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1 IN THE SENATE

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 13 am

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5

Relating to United States Coast Guard

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reorganization.

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

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WHEREAS the Commandant of the United States Coast Guard has announced

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a plan to relocate 78 military and civilian positions from Alaska, all of

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which are currently located in Juneau; and

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WHEREAS the plan will have an inordinate effect on Juneau, forcing an

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estimated 360 people to relocate at a time when Juneau and the state as a

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whole are suffering from a substantial population loss because of an eco-

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nomie downturn; and

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WHEREAS the relocation plan is likely to result in less active en-

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forcement of fishing laws in the intense fisheries of the state, which

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could have a negative effect on the state's economy and efforts to develop

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international trade; and

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WHEREAS the fatality rate from recreational boating accidents in

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Alaska is 20 times the national average, so it is imperative that the U.S.

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Coast Guard maintain its ability to provide timely response on rescue

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missions; and

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WHEREAS the increasing vessel activity in the Gulf of Alaska, national

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security interests, and increasing foreign fishing off Alaska all indicate

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a need for a greater U.S. Coast Guard presence in Alaska; and

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WHEREAS the state's geographic isolation from the rest of the nation,

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unique environment, and vast coastal area make it impossible for the U.S.

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Coast Guard to cover Alaska from bases outside the state;

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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 Elizabeth Dole, Secretary
8 of Transportation; and Admiral Paul A. Yost, Commandant, U.S. Coast Guard;
9 and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S.
10 Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the
11 Alaska delegation in Congress.