

Original sponsors: Duncan, Abood,  
Bennett, et al.

1 IN THE SENATE BY THE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
2 HOUSE CS FOR SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 13 (State Affairs)  
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 U.S. Coast Guard conducts vital search and rescue missions  
20 for Alaska fishermen and, by its efforts, has saved many lives; and  
21 WHEREAS the fatality rate from recreational boating accidents in  
22 Alaska is 20 times the national average, so it is imperative that the U.S.  
23 Coast Guard maintain its ability to provide timely response on rescue  
24 missions; and  
25 WHEREAS the increasing vessel activity in the Gulf of Alaska, national  
26 security interests, and increasing foreign fishing off Alaska all indicate  
27 a need for a greater U.S. Coast Guard presence in Alaska; and  
28 WHEREAS the state's geographic isolation from the rest of the nation,  
29 unique environment, and vast coastal area make it impossible for the U.S.

1 Coast Guard to cover Alaska from bases outside the state;

2 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature opposes the portion  
3 of the United States Coast Guard reorganization plan that calls for the  
4 relocation of Coast Guard personnel from Alaska; and be it

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

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