

BY THE LABOR & COMMERCE COMMITTEE

1 IN THE HOUSE

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 75

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

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SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

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Relating to the federal moratorium on

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military construction projects.

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

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WHEREAS on January 24, 1990, the United States Department of Defense

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issued a memorandum placing a moratorium on military construction projects;

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and

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WHEREAS the moratorium prohibits

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(1) the award of new military construction contracts financed by

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certain military construction appropriations; and

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(2) the exercise of options under certain existing military

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construction contracts; and

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WHEREAS the moratorium took effect immediately and is to end April 30,

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1990; and

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WHEREAS the moratorium does not cover contracts and options where

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(1) the United States has a legal obligation to award the con-

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tract or exercise the option;

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(2) where the contract or option is for the purpose of complying

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with the requirements of certain federal statutes; or

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(3) where the contract or option is for the purpose of meeting

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urgent requirements, if the Deputy Secretary of Defense approves; and

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WHEREAS several military and defense construction projects in the

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state are presently in the bidding or pre-invitation-to-bid stages; and

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WHEREAS Alaska contractors have already expended time and money to

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prepare for bids for the military construction projects that were to be

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made during the moratorium; and

1           WHEREAS the short construction season in northern areas places a  
2 particular hardship on the state if the military construction contracts are  
3 not made until after the moratorium; and

4           WHEREAS, since the state must import most of the construction materi-  
5 als, time is critically important for the military construction projects,  
6 and a moratorium until April 30 will make it virtually impossible to plan  
7 for and receive materials in time for the coming construction season; and

8           WHEREAS military construction projects comprise a significant part of  
9 the state's construction industry, particularly in light of the decrease in  
10 state-funded construction projects; and

11           WHEREAS the delay or loss of military construction projects during and  
12 after the moratorium will cost hundreds of state residents their jobs and  
13 may force some local construction businesses to close; and

14           WHEREAS the moratorium will have an immediate and adverse effect on  
15 the state;

16           BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests  
17 the United States Department of Defense to amend paragraph (3) of the  
18 moratorium to specifically direct the Deputy Secretary of Defense to in-  
19 clude in the definition of "urgent requirements" a consideration of the  
20 special circumstances existing in Alaska and to liberally interpret the  
21 "urgent requirements" language in a manner that will reduce the negative  
22 effect of the moratorium on the state as much as possible.

23           COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable George Bush,  
24 President of the United States; the Honorable Richard B. Cheney, Secretary  
25 of the U.S. Department of Defense; the Honorable Donald J. Atwood, Jr.,  
26 Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of Defense; and to the Honorable  
27 Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the  
28 Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation  
29 in Congress.