

1 IN THE SENATE

BY KERTTULA AND SZYMANSKI

2

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 27

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

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SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5

Relating to an essential air service

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subsidy for the City of Valdez.

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

8 WHEREAS the City of Valdez is a community with a population of 3,700
9 persons and is about 300 road miles and 150 air miles from Anchorage, the
10 nearest urban area; and

11 WHEREAS the current level of scheduled air service to the City of
12 Valdez adversely affects the safety and comfort of the residents of the
13 city and prevents quick access to Valdez in the event of an emergency
14 involving the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System oil terminal; and

15 WHEREAS the City of Valdez is unable to further develop its tourist
16 industry and to fully utilize its civic center facilities without adequate
17 scheduled air transportation services; and

18 WHEREAS Valdez is subjected to inclement weather during much of the
19 year, with a high proportion of overcast and rainy days during the summer
20 and overcast and snowy days during the winter; and

21 WHEREAS the only aircraft that can provide the City of Valdez with
22 reliable scheduled air service is the DeHavilland DASH-7, which is a four
23 engine aircraft with short take off and landing capabilities and is
24 equipped with microwave equipment that is compatible with the microwave
25 landing system at the Valdez airport; and

26 WHEREAS the DeHavilland DASH-7 aircraft can operate during periods of
27 inclement weather that are frequent in Valdez and has in the past provided
28 Valdez with a scheduled flight success rate of 90 percent; and

29 WHEREAS at least two commercial air carriers have expressed interest

1 in providing scheduled air service to Valdez with the DeHavilland DASH-7
2 aircraft, if an essential air service subsidy is available; and

3 WHEREAS the City of Valdez is eligible for an essential air service
4 subsidy, but a shortage of federal funds has prevented the city from re-
5 ceiving the subsidy;

6 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature supports the request
7 of the City of Valdez for an essential air service subsidy; and be it

8 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully re-
9 quests the U.S. Department of Transportation to approve the request of the
10 City of Valdez for an essential air service subsidy; and be it

11 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully re-
12 quests the Congress to increase funding for the essential air service
13 subsidy program in order that the City of Valdez may receive a subsidy for
14 sorely needed reliable, year-round scheduled air service.

15 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Dan Quayle,
16 Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the
17 Honorable Jim Wright, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representative; the
18 Honorable Frank R. Lautenberg, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Transporta-
19 tion and Related Agencies of the U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations;
20 the Honorable William Lehmen, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Transporta-
21 tion and Related Agencies of the U.S. House Committee on Appropriations;
22 the Honorable Samuel K. Skinner, U.S. Secretary of Transportation; and to
23 the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators,
24 and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska
25 delegation in Congress.