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Referred: Transportation

6-1861A

BY SEN. ZHAROFF, Halford, Adams, Binkley, Pearce, Jones, Coghill

1 IN THE SENATE

2 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 55 am H
3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
4 SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Relating to the proposed restructuring
6 of the National Weather Service in
7 Alaska.

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

9 WHEREAS the United States Department of Commerce issued the Strategic
10 Plan for the Modernization and Associated Restructuring of the National
11 Weather Service in March 1989; and

12 WHEREAS the plan proposes that automated weather monitoring equipment
13 be installed in the early 1990's to replace the staff of 14 full service
14 rural weather stations in Alaska; and

15 WHEREAS these weather stations, especially in Kodiak, provide critical
16 weather information that is used extensively by aircraft operators and
17 commercial fishing fleets, tug boats, and freighters in the North Pacific
18 Ocean, Bering Sea, and Bristol Bay; and

19 WHEREAS the response to and clean up of the recent disastrous Exxon
20 Valdez oil spill relied heavily on local weather forecasts and forecast
21 updates; and

22 WHEREAS the plan does not recognize or adequately address the unique
23 needs of Alaska;

24 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests
25 the United States Department of Commerce to reject the proposed plan to
26 restructure the National Weather Service in Alaska and to develop a plan to
27 provide vital weather services that are more consistent with the needs and
28 conditions that exist in Alaska.

29 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable George Bush,

1 President of the United States; the Honorable Robert A. Mosbacher, Sr.,
2 Secretary of the U.S. Department of Commerce; the Honorable Elbert W.
3 Friday, Assistant Administrator for Weather Services; and to the Honorable
4 Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the
5 Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation
6 in Congress.