

**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 18**  
**IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA**  
**SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION**

**BY REPRESENTATIVES ELLIS, Gruenberg**

**Introduced: 2/5/91**

**Referred: Labor and Commerce**

**A RESOLUTION**

**1 Relating to establishment of a federal earthquake insurance program.**

**2 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

**3 WHEREAS** the United States Congress and the United States Geological Service have  
**4** determined that portions of all 50 states are vulnerable to the hazards of earthquakes; and

**5 WHEREAS** potential earthquakes are a national risk that requires a national solution; and

**6 WHEREAS** the probable maximum loss of an earthquake measuring 8.0 or larger on the Richter  
**7** scale is estimated at \$50,000,000,000 to \$60,000,000,000, including claims for workers' compensation,  
**8** business and property losses, and personal injuries; and

**9 WHEREAS** each year in this state there are approximately 1,000 earthquakes that measure more  
**10** than 3.5 on the Richter scale; and

**11 WHEREAS** of the 10 strongest earthquakes ever recorded in the world, three have occurred in  
**12** this state, one of which was the devastating Good Friday earthquake in 1964; and

**13 WHEREAS** the present system of insuring against earthquakes is unacceptable to both the  
**14** insurance industry and to policyholders in that insurance coverage is either unaffordable or unavailable;  
**15** and

**16 WHEREAS** the earthquake that occurred on October 17, 1989, in northern California caused 66

1 deaths and an estimated \$5,000,000,000 in damages; and

2       **WHEREAS** the recent California earthquake demonstrated the inadequacy of the existing system  
3 of state and federal earthquake relief funding; and

4       **WHEREAS** a prepaid insurance fund built up from premiums collected from homeowners  
5 throughout the nation should save the federal government money by reducing the need for disaster relief;  
6 and

7       **WHEREAS** a federal earthquake insurance program would protect our nation's economic health  
8 as well as home and business owners throughout the nation; and

9       **WHEREAS** there has been proposed by The Earthquake Project, a universal program for  
10 earthquake insurance coverage known as the Federal Earthquake Insurance and Reinsurance Act; and

11       **WHEREAS** federal earthquake insurance would provide affordable, reliable, and adequate  
12 coverage against the risk of earthquakes;

13       **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Alaska State Legislature that the Congress is respectfully requested  
14 to consider and adopt legislation to create a federal earthquake insurance program as proposed by The  
15 Earthquake Project.

16       **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Dan Quayle, Vice-President of the  
17 United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Thomas S. Foley, Speaker of the U.S.  
18 House of Representatives; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S.  
19 Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in  
20 Congress.