

HJR

22

<TARGET><BILL>HJR 22</BILL><SUBJECT>HJR
22</SUBJECT><COMM>SSTA29</COMM></TARGET>

REPRESENTATIVE DAN ORTIZ

Alaska State Legislature / Ketchikan, Saxman, Wrangell, Hydaburg, Metlakatla, Hyder, Loring and Meyers Chuck

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HJR 22

Sponsor Statement

This resolution urges the Canada Border Services Agency to restore 24-hour access to the border of Hyder, Alaska and Stewart, British Columbia in both directions. Hyder, Alaska is a geographically isolated community in southern Southeast Alaska. It's a community of approximately 87 residents and it sits on the border of Alaska and British Columbia, Canada. Hyder is just a little over a mile away from Stewart B.C., a community of approximately 500 residents. The residents of Hyder have only this road access to Stewart, B.C. and are dependent on Stewart for emergency medical services. The economies of each community are interlinked by tourism and mining interests which are the backbone of both Hyder and Stewart. Tourists and mine workers have historically crossed the border from Stewart B.C. into Hyder, Alaska each summer prior to 8:00 a.m.

On April 1, 2015 the border crossing between Hyder and Stewart, which is manned only by the Canadian Border, ceased to be a 24-hour crossing. The Canada Border Services Agency placed a gate along the border, which closes the border each day from midnight to 8am.

The road also serves as the established emergency evacuation route out of the community in case of a tsunami, levee break or other natural disaster. The Canada Border Services Agency's decision to limit the border crossing and the only road access to safety, has put the safety and economic wellbeing of the residents of Hyder in jeopardy.

There has been a long history of community cooperation and cultural exchange between the residents of Hyder, Alaska and Stewart, British Columbia. On Saturday March 28th, I hosted a town meeting for the residents of both Hyder and Stewart about the issue. There is unanimous consent within the two communities that the Canada Border Services Agency should reverse its decision and restore 24-hour access in both directions at the border.

Fiscal Note

State of Alaska
2015 Legislative Session

Bill Version:	HJR 22
Fiscal Note Number:	1
(H) Publish Date:	4/9/2015

Identifier: HJR22-LEG-SESS-04-08-15
Title: STEWART-HYDER BORDER HOURS
Sponsor: ORTIZ
Requester: HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS

Department:
Appropriation:
Allocation:
OMB Component Number: 0

Expenditures/Revenues

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below. (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY2016 Appropriation Requested	Included in Governor's FY2016 Request	Out-Year Cost Estimates				
			FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2016	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021
Personal Services							
Travel							
Services							
Commodities							
Capital Outlay							
Grants & Benefits							
Miscellaneous							
Total Operating	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Fund Source (Operating Only)

None							
Total	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Positions

Full-time							
Part-time							
Temporary							

Change in Revenues							
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Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY2015) cost: 0.0 (separate supplemental appropriation required)
(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

Estimated CAPITAL (FY2016) cost: 0.0 (separate capital appropriation required)
(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

ASSOCIATED REGULATIONS

Does the bill direct, or will the bill result in, regulation changes adopted by your agency?
If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed?

Why this fiscal note differs from previous version:

INITIAL VERSION

Prepared By: Jessica Geary, Finance Manager
Division: Legislative Affairs Agency
Approved By: Pam Varni, Executive Director
Agency: Legislative Affairs Agency

Phone: (907)465-6626
Date: 04/08/2015 01:04 PM
Date: 04/08/2015

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In Canada reply to:
Post Office Box 861
Stewart, B.C
VOT 1W0.

April 16, 2015

Dear Senator:

**I am contacting you to urge your support of HJR 22,
when it comes to the Senate for a vote.**

This resolution addresses the gate that Canadian Border Services Agency put in place across the only road into or out of Hyder. The gate is locked from midnight to 8 a.m., cutting us off from our only disaster evacuation route, and making access to medical care too difficult and time-consuming to be effective in an emergency.

The gate also threatens our economic survival. Tourism is the mainstay of our economy. Our stores, restaurants, and hotels do about 90% of their business in 90 days, and with the long daylight hours, activities do NOT fit neatly into the 8 a.m. to midnight time frame.

We are beginning to see a 'snowball effect' from the gate closure. It is possible that we will lose our school. Enrollment will drop below minimum if families have to move because the parents cannot travel freely to jobs across the border before 8 a.m.

Please support HJR 22.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wes Loe", written over a horizontal line.

Wes Loe, President
Hyder Community Association

Mile "0" Alaska / Yukon Highway