



Alaska State Legislature

1973

Source:

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 51

Relating to emergency medical evacuation and mail service for Little Diomedes.

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

WHEREAS the island and the village of Little Diomedes do not have an airport or airstrip and it is not considered feasible to build an airstrip on that island due to its rugged terrain; and

WHEREAS the island can be reached by aircraft from anywhere in the state only six months out of each year; by sea plane during three months of the summer and by ski plane during three months of the winter; and

WHEREAS the island is totally isolated and inaccessible from the rest of the state for one-half of each year, during the freezing and the break-up of the ice when neither sea nor ski planes can land, and during these periods the island cannot receive mail service or emergency medical evacuation from the mainland of Alaska; and

WHEREAS it is understood that the nearby island of Big Diomedes has a year-round airstrip maintained by the U.S.S.R. and that during the majority of the year the island of Big Diomedes could be reached by the inhabitants of Little Diomedes without extreme difficulty;

BE IT RESOLVED that the President of the United States is respectfully requested to investigate the possibility of reaching an agreement with the government of the U.S.S.R. for the delivery of mail, freight and passenger service to the inhabitants of Little Diomedes through the cooperation of the U.S.S.R. and the use of the airstrip at Big Diomedes; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the President of the United States is requested to take immediate and necessary steps to achieve an agreement with the government of the U.S.S.R. establishing procedures for emergency medical evacuation for the inhabitants of Little Diomedede through the cooperation of the U.S.S.R. and the use of the airstrip at Big Diomedede.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Richard M. Nixon, President of the United States; the Honorable William P. Rogers, Secretary of State; the Honorable Claude Brinegar, Secretary of Transportation; and the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Mike Gravel, U. S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U. S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.