

# STATE OF ALASKA

## THE LEGISLATURE

1986

Source

Legislative  
Resolve No.

CSHJR 67(SA)

39



Requesting the United States Congress to establish advanced all-weather satellite coverage of North Pacific waters.

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

WHEREAS remote sensing of the ocean is playing an increasingly important role in fishery research, fish harvesting, and marine safety along the Pacific Coast of the United States and Canada; and

WHEREAS satellite sensors give a unique view of the ocean surface and provide extensive and detailed images of sea surface temperature, color, mixed layer depth, currents, and wave action; and

WHEREAS the oceanic measurements taken by the satellite are used in determining variations in ocean conditions that play key roles in causing fluctuations in stocks of fishes and their vulnerability to harvesting; and

WHEREAS this timely information on the changing ocean, rather than on average ocean conditions, is necessary to understand and eventually predict the effects of the marine environment on fish populations; and

WHEREAS up-to-date weather information can provide the fishing fleet accurate weather data that will increase the safety and efficiency of fish harvesting; and

WHEREAS the use of satellite sensors combined with conventional data collection techniques provides a powerful tool toward ensuring the wise use of living marine resources; and

WHEREAS this information can provide valuable clues as to where foreign fishing fleets may be targeting certain North American fish stocks on the high seas; and

WHEREAS these clues can lead the United States Coast Guard and other enforcement agencies to the precise locations where harmful interception of North American fish are taking place; and

WHEREAS several manufacturers have developed oceanographic color displays designed to receive signals from a satellite and to display, in color, an absolute surface temperature distribution for a large water area; and

WHEREAS in order to provide this information to fishermen, enforcement agencies, and research facilities, receiving stations need to be established in Alaska to monitor the North Pacific region; and

WHEREAS an all-weather satellite is needed to provide this detailed information because it is not dependent on cloud cover conditions; and

WHEREAS the National Aeronautics and Space Administration has abandoned the Gilmore Creek Satellite Receiving Station and this station can be used by the National Weather Service to receive satellite data in Alaska;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature finds establishment of all-weather satellite and receiving stations would benefit the fishermen, marine researchers, enforcement agents, and merchant mariners of the United States and Alaska; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the United States Congress to establish an all-weather monitoring satellite for the waters of the North Pacific Ocean; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature respectfully requests that Congress transfer NASA's Gilmore Creek Satellite Receiving Station to the National Weather Service and provide funding for its use; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature also requests that funds be allocated for the purchase of oceanographic color displays for the receiving stations and for the distribution of this data to fishermen, researchers, enforcement agencies, and merchant mariners.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Ronald Reagan, President of the United States; the Honorable George Bush, Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill, Speaker of the U. S. House of Representatives; Richard E. Hallgren, Assistant Administrator for Weather Services (National Weather Service), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.