

STATE OF ALASKA

THE LEGISLATURE

1989

Source

SJR 27

Legislative
Resolve No.

18



Relating to an essential air service subsidy for the City of Valdez.

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

WHEREAS the City of Valdez is a community with a population of 3,700 persons and is about 300 road miles and 150 air miles from Anchorage, the nearest urban area; and

WHEREAS the current level of scheduled air service to the City of Valdez adversely affects the safety and comfort of the residents of the city and prevents quick access to Valdez in the event of an emergency involving the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System oil terminal; and

WHEREAS the City of Valdez is unable to further develop its tourist industry and to fully utilize its civic center facilities without adequate scheduled air transportation services; and

WHEREAS Valdez is subjected to inclement weather during much of the year, with a high proportion of overcast and rainy days during the summer and overcast and snowy days during the winter; and

WHEREAS the only aircraft that can provide the City of Valdez with reliable scheduled air service is the DeHavilland DASH-7, which is a four engine aircraft with short take off and landing capabilities and is equipped with microwave equipment that is compatible with the microwave landing system at the Valdez airport; and

WHEREAS the DeHavilland DASH-7 aircraft can operate during periods of inclement weather that are frequent in Valdez and has in the past provided Valdez with a scheduled flight success rate of 90 percent; and

WHEREAS at least two commercial air carriers have expressed interest in providing scheduled air service to Valdez with the DeHavilland DASH-7 aircraft, if an essential air service subsidy is available; and

WHEREAS the City of Valdez is eligible for an essential air service subsidy, but a shortage of federal funds has prevented the city from receiving the subsidy;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature supports the request of the City of Valdez for an essential air service subsidy; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the U.S. Department of Transportation to approve the request of the City of Valdez for an essential air service subsidy; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the Congress to increase funding for the essential air service subsidy program in order that the City of Valdez may receive a subsidy for sorely needed reliable, year-round scheduled air service.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Dan Quayle, Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Jim Wright, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Frank R. Lautenberg, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Transportation and Related Agencies of the U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations; the Honorable William Lehmen, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Transportation and Related Agencies of the U.S. House Committee on Appropriations; the Honorable Samuel K. Skinner, U.S. Secretary of Transportation; 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.