

STATE OF ALASKA THE LEGISLATURE

1994

Source
HJR 64

Legislative
Resolve No.
55



Relating to the projects of the Alaska Aerospace Development Corporation for satellite ground stations and a rocket launch facility.

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

WHEREAS the Alaska Aerospace Development Corporation is a public corporation established by AS 14.40.821; and

WHEREAS the Alaska Aerospace Development Corporation has identified two areas of aerospace development that have special significance to the state, which are the location of satellite ground stations in the Fairbanks area and the construction of a commercial rocket launch facility on Kodiak Island; and

WHEREAS the strategic northern location of the Fairbanks area, the state's state-of-the-art telecommunications systems, the renowned engineering and science faculty and facilities of the University of Alaska, and the availability of skilled employees and contractors have led a number of aerospace companies to express great interest in locating ground stations in the Fairbanks area for the purpose of controlling, communicating with, and processing information from polar-orbiting satellites; and

WHEREAS the growing commercial demand for low-earth orbit satellites is expected

to increase the need for a commercial rocket launch facility in the United States; and

WHEREAS the sites proposed by the Alaska Aerospace Development Corporation on Kodiak Island for a rocket launch facility have attracted governmental and aerospace industry interest because of the safety and environmental features of those sites; and

WHEREAS the plans of the Alaska Aerospace Development Corporation for a rocket launch facility promise a low cost, unbureaucratic rocket launch facility free from the restrictions imposed on facilities owned by the federal government; and

WHEREAS the location of ground stations in the Fairbanks area and the construction of the rocket launch facility on Kodiak Island will provide the state with new sources of skilled, long-term employment, provide additional technology infrastructure to the state, and lead to a continued growth in the state's technology industry; and

WHEREAS both of these projects will provide unparalleled educational opportunities for Alaska students because the Alaska Aerospace Development Corporation intends to work with the state's schools during these projects, and this cooperation will expose state students to some notable persons, including some of the best aerospace scientists in the country and Eugene Cernan, who was the last man to walk on the moon and who is on the corporation's board of directors; and

WHEREAS these projects of the Alaska Aerospace Development Corporation would be enhanced if the aerospace industry and the United States government cooperated with and provided technological and other assistance to the Alaska Aerospace Development Corporation during these projects;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature hereby expresses its support for the projects of the Alaska Aerospace Development Corporation to locate satellite ground stations in the Fairbanks area and to construct a rocket launch facility on Kodiak Island; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature encourages the aerospace industry and the United States government to cooperate and provide technological and other assistance to the Alaska Aerospace Development Corporation for these projects.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Al Gore, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Robert C. Byrd,

President Pro Tempore of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Thomas S. Foley, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; to the Honorable Sheila E. Widnall, Secretary of the U.S. Air Force; 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.