

STATE OF ALASKA
THE LEGISLATURE

1998

Source
HJR 67

Legislative
Resolve No.
83



Relating to renewal of the bilateral aviation agreement concerning the mandatory Anchorage stopover for Russian carriers on transpacific routes between the Russian Far East and the United States.

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

WHEREAS the current bilateral agreement between the United States and the Russian Federation that requires a stopover in Anchorage for Russian air carriers on transpacific routes between the Russian Far East and the United States expires in May 1998; and

WHEREAS this bilateral agreement preserves the equal footing of American air carriers operating mid-range aircraft with their Russian counterparts; and

WHEREAS the maintenance of this bilateral agreement preserves the position of Anchorage as the American gateway to the Russian Far East and prevents further decline in international air traffic through Anchorage, which would result in reduced economic opportunities in the state's largest municipality; and

WHEREAS the state has previously sustained the sudden loss of tens of millions of dollars and the departure of 10 European and Asian passenger air carriers in a two-year period; and

WHEREAS there is a large Russian community in the state that would be severely affected economically, socially, and culturally if air travel to and from the Russian Far East became more limited; and

WHEREAS the state gains important economic and cultural benefits from this bilateral agreement because more frequent travel opportunities encourage the development and maintenance of linkages between institutions, governments, and other entities in the Russian Far East and the University of Alaska and Alaska Pacific University, which provide training and technical assistance to entities in the Russian Far East to assist in the transition to a market-based economy; and

WHEREAS the state has established a Memorandum of Cooperation with the Khabarovsk and Sakhalin Dumas and has a sister state agreement with Khabarovsk Territory, and the Municipality of Anchorage has a Sister City agreement with the city of Magadan to provide economic and government advice for transition to a market-based economy and has developed strong financial connections with Magadan, Khabarovsk, Yakutsk, Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk, and other cities in the Russian Far East, continuation of which requires direct air service;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature strongly urges the United States Department of Transportation to negotiate for renewal of the bilateral agreement to retain the mandatory stopover in Anchorage, Alaska, for transpacific flights between the Russian Far East and the United States of America.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Madeleine Albright, U.S. Secretary of State; the Honorable Rodney E. Slater, U.S. Secretary of Transportation; Joan W. Bauerlein, Director of International Aviation; 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.