

STATE OF ALASKA THE LEGISLATURE

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Source

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**Legislative
Resolve No.**

19



Urging the United States Congress to fully fund the operational readiness and recapitalization requirements of the United States Coast Guard.

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

WHEREAS the United States Coast Guard is a military multi-mission maritime service that has answered the calls of the United States public continuously for more than 210 years; and

WHEREAS the United States Coast Guard has provided critical services to the citizens of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, throughout its history, the United States Coast Guard's roles as lifesaver and guardian of the sea have remained constant, while its missions have evolved and expanded with the growth of the nation; and

WHEREAS the mission of the United States Coast Guard is to protect the nation's safety, security, environment, and economy; and

WHEREAS the United States Coast Guard's operating goals of safety, natural resource protection, mobility, maritime security, and national defense enable it to touch

everyone in the nation; and

WHEREAS the United States Coast Guard pursues its goal of safety primarily through its search and rescue and marine safety operations; and

WHEREAS the United States Coast Guard is the only organization or government agency that has the extensive inventory of assets and expertise necessary to conduct search and rescue operations for both recreational boaters and commercial mariners on lakes, on rivers, in shore areas, and on the high seas; and

WHEREAS the United States Coast Guard provides the first line of defense in protecting the maritime environment through its marine safety program, which ensures the safe commercial transport of passengers and cargo, including oil, through the nation's waters, and which guards the nation's maritime borders from incursions by foreign fishing vessels; and

WHEREAS the United States Coast Guard serves as a global model of efficient military multi-mission maritime service for the emerging coast guard organizations of the world and helps friendly countries to become positive forces of peace and stability, which promotes democracy and the rule of law; and

WHEREAS United States Coast Guard personnel are a highly motivated group of people who are committed to providing essential and valuable services to the American public; and

WHEREAS the United States Coast Guard military structure, law enforcement authority, and humanitarian functions make it a unique arm of national security and enable it to support broad national goals; and

WHEREAS the United States Coast Guard is well known for being the first to reach the scene when maritime disaster strikes, and it continues to be given the task of protecting the nation's waters from pollution, the nation's borders from drug smuggling, and the nation's fisheries from being over harvested, and to be assigned additional duties that stretch thin its personnel and resources;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States Congress to fully fund the United States Coast Guard's supplemental budget for its operational readiness and recapitalization requirements to ensure that this humanitarian arm of the nation's national security system remains "semper paratus" throughout the Twenty-First

Century.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Dick Cheney, Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Strom Thurmond, President Pro-Tempore of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Norman Y. Mineta, Secretary of Transportation; Admiral James M. Loy, Commandant of the United States Coast Guard; Admiral Dennis C. Blair, Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Command; Vice Admiral Ernest R. Riutta, Commander, U.S. Coast Guard Pacific Area; Rear Admiral Thomas J. Barrett, Commander, Seventeenth Coast Guard District; 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.