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CS FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 18(TRA)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE HOUSE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

**Offered:
Referred:**

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVE JOHANSEN

A RESOLUTION

1 **Opposing the enactment of the provisions in the Next Generation Transportation**
2 **System Financing Reform Act of 2007 that impose air traffic control user fees, increase**
3 **aviation fuel and aviation gas taxes, and reduce airport funding.**

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

5 **WHEREAS**, because of Alaska's geography and its many isolated communities
6 without road access, the state has historically relied heavily on general aviation as a major
7 component of its transportation system; and

8 **WHEREAS** the people of Alaska continue to depend on general aviation to move and
9 distribute mail, supplies, goods, and people around the state; and

10 **WHEREAS**, as of May 1999, Alaska had 10,605 registered pilots and 8,053
11 registered aircraft, approximately one pilot and one aircraft for every 61 Alaskans; and

12 **WHEREAS** it is estimated Alaska has about six times as many pilots per capita and
13 16 times as many aircraft per capita as the rest of the United States; and

14 **WHEREAS** Alaska ranks sixth in the total number of airports with 583, including
15 heliports and seaplane bases, a number that equals approximately 3.5 percent of the total

1 number of airports in the United States; and

2 **WHEREAS** Alaska is among the top states in the number of seaplane bases with 102,
3 approximately 25 percent of the United States total; and

4 **WHEREAS** Alaska has two of the world's largest seaplane bases in the world with
5 Lake Hood in Anchorage, which accommodates more than 800 takeoffs and landings on a
6 peak summer day and Ketchikan, where approximately 16,000 takeoffs and landings by
7 seaplanes and general aviation planes occur in each month in the summer; and

8 **WHEREAS** H.R. 1356 and S. 1076, companion bills proposing the Next Generation
9 Air Transportation System Financing Reform Act of 2007, that are pending before the United
10 States Congress would increase the tax on aviation gas from 19.4 cents a gallon to 70 cents a
11 gallon and the tax on aviation fuel from 21.9 cents a gallon to 70 cents a gallon; and

12 **WHEREAS** because of Alaska's unique geography and dependence on general
13 aviation, such an increase in taxes, implementation of user fees, and reduction of airport
14 funding would be detrimental to the economy of this state and would have a particularly harsh
15 impact on many isolated rural communities;

16 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully opposes the
17 enactment of the provisions in the Next Generation Air Transportation System Financing
18 Reform Act of 2007 that impose user fees, increase aviation fuel and aviation gas taxes, and
19 reduce airport funding.

20 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Bart Gordon, Chair of the
21 U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Science and Technology; the Honorable Ralph
22 Hall, Ranking Member of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Science and
23 Technology; the Honorable Mark Udall, Chair of the Subcommittee on Science and
24 Aeronautics of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Science and Technology; the
25 Honorable Ken Calvert, Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Science and Aeronautics
26 of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Science and Technology; the Honorable
27 James Oberstar, Chair of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Transportation and
28 Infrastructure; the Honorable John L. Mica, Ranking Member of the U.S. House of
29 Representatives Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure; the Honorable Jerry F.
30 Costello, Chair of the Subcommittee on Aviation of the U.S. House of Representatives
31 Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure; the Honorable Thomas E. Petri, Ranking

1 Member of the Subcommittee on Aviation of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee
2 on Transportation and Infrastructure; the Honorable Charles B. Rangel, Chair of the U.S.
3 House of Representatives Committee on Ways and Means; the Honorable Jim McCrery,
4 Ranking Member of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Ways and Means; the
5 Honorable Daniel Inouye, Chair of the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and
6 Transportation; the Honorable John D. Rockefeller, IV, Chair of the Subcommittee on
7 Aviation Operations, Safety, and Security of the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce,
8 Science, and Transportation; the Honorable Trent Lott, Ranking Member of the
9 Subcommittee on Aviation Operations, Safety, and Security of the U.S. Senate Committee on
10 Commerce, Science, and Transportation; the Honorable John Katz, Director of State and
11 Federal Relations and Special Counsel to the Governor of Alaska; and the Honorable Ted
12 Stevens and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young,
13 U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.