

**STATE OF ALASKA
THE LEGISLATURE**

2007

Source

SCS CSHJR 18(TRA)

**Legislative
Resolve No.**

8



Opposing the enactment of the provisions in the Next Generation Air Transportation System Financing Reform Act of 2007 that impose air traffic control user fees, increase aviation fuel and aviation gas taxes, reduce airport funding, and reduce Congressional oversight of the Federal Aviation Administration.

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS Alaska ranks sixth in the total number of airports with 583, including

heliports and seaplane bases, a number that equals approximately 3.5 percent of the total number of airports in the United States; and

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

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

WHEREAS H.R. 1356 and S. 1076, companion bills proposing the Next Generation Air Transportation System Financing Reform Act of 2007, that are pending before the United States Congress would increase the tax on aviation gas from 19.4 cents a gallon to 70 cents a gallon and the tax on aviation fuel from 21.9 cents a gallon to 70 cents a gallon and would implement fees associated with the use of the National Airspace System; and

WHEREAS the Next Generation Air Transportation System Financing Reform Act of 2007 proposes to remove Congressional oversight of the Federal Aviation Administration; and

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

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully opposes the enactment of the provisions in the Next Generation Air Transportation System Financing Reform Act of 2007 that impose user fees, increase aviation fuel and aviation gas taxes, reduce airport funding, and reduce Congressional oversight of the Federal Aviation Administration.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Bart Gordon, Chair of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Science and Technology; the Honorable Ralph Hall, Ranking Member of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Science and Technology; the Honorable Mark Udall, Chair of the Subcommittee on Science and Aeronautics of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Science and Technology; the Honorable Ken Calvert, Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Science and Aeronautics

of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Science and Technology; the Honorable James Oberstar, Chair of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure; the Honorable John L. Mica, Ranking Member of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure; the Honorable Jerry F. Costello, Chair of the Subcommittee on Aviation of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure; the Honorable Thomas E. Petri, Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Aviation of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure; the Honorable Charles B. Rangel, Chair of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Ways and Means; the Honorable Jim McCrery, Ranking Member of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Ways and Means; the Honorable Daniel Inouye, Chair of the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation; the Honorable John D. Rockefeller IV, Chair of the Subcommittee on Aviation Operations, Safety, and Security of the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation; the Honorable Trent Lott, Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Aviation Operations, Safety, and Security of the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation; the Honorable John Katz, Director of State and Federal Relations and Special Counsel to the Governor of Alaska; and the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.