

CS FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 27(MLV)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Offered: 3/13/20

Referred: House Special Committee on Arctic Policy, Economic Development, and Tourism

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES FIELDS, Shaw, Tuck, Thompson, Spohnholz, Rauscher

A RESOLUTION

1 **Requesting the United States Department of Defense to invest in the Port of Alaska.**

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

3 **WHEREAS** the Port of Alaska is one of 17 seaports designated as commercial
4 strategic seaports by the United States Department of Defense; and

5 **WHEREAS** commercial strategic seaports are significant transportation hubs that are
6 important to the readiness and cargo handling capacity of the United States Department of
7 Defense; and

8 **WHEREAS** the Port of Alaska is one of only two commercial strategic seaports
9 located outside of the contiguous United States, and is strategically located near Arctic
10 shipping channels; and

11 **WHEREAS** the designation of the Port of Alaska as a Commercial Strategic Seaport
12 includes a port readiness committee to provide the means to coordinate efficient port
13 operations during peacetime and actual national defense emergencies; and

14 **WHEREAS** the port readiness committee for the Port of Alaska includes
15 representatives from nine federal agencies and organizations, including the United States
16 Maritime Administration, the United States Coast Guard, the Military Sealift Command, the

1 United States Transportation Command, the United States Army Corps of Engineers, the
2 United States Northern Command, the Transportation Security Administration, and the
3 Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command; and

4 **WHEREAS** the Port of Alaska supports four major United States Department of
5 Defense installations, including Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Fort Wainwright, Eielson
6 Air Force Base, and Fort Greely; and

7 **WHEREAS** Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Fort Wainwright, Eielson Air Force
8 Base, and Fort Greely are undergoing critical expansions for fighter jet and missile defense
9 capacity, and the necessary material for these projects is entering the state primarily through
10 the Port of Alaska; and

11 **WHEREAS** the Port of Alaska provides the only fully operational port for handling
12 containers and roll-on-roll-off cargo twice a week and provides goods and commodities that
13 are necessary for base operations and the daily needs of service members; and

14 **WHEREAS** the Port of Alaska is the critical fuel distribution hub for aviation fuel for
15 operations at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson and Eielson Air Force Base; and

16 **WHEREAS** the Port of Alaska is already implementing significant tariff increases to
17 maximize consumer and business contributions to port infrastructure improvements, and the
18 tariffs will not be adequate to fund the critical maintenance that is essential to replace
19 corroded and earthquake-damaged components of the Port of Alaska; and

20 **WHEREAS**, in November of 2019, the Port of Alaska suffered infrastructure damage
21 in a major earthquake, which exacerbated preexisting damage from corrosion; and

22 **WHEREAS** the state's fiscal situation prevents the state from being the sole or
23 primary funder of upgrades to the Port of Alaska;

24 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature requests that the United States
25 Department of Defense augment existing public and private funding of the Port of Alaska to
26 ensure that the Port of Alaska remains operational and can withstand potential future
27 earthquakes and to guarantee continued support of operations at Joint Base Elmendorf-
28 Richardson, Fort Wainwright, Eielson Air Force Base, and Fort Greely.

29 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Donald J. Trump, President
30 of the United States; the Honorable Michael R. Pence, Vice President of the United States and
31 President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the U.S. House of

1 Representatives; the Honorable Mark Esper, United States Secretary of the Department of
2 Defense; the Honorable Elaine L. Chao, United States Secretary of Transportation; and the
3 Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Dan Sullivan, U.S. Senators, and the
4 Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.