

**STATE OF ALASKA
SENATE**

2011

Source
SR 2

**Senate
Resolve No.**
2



Urging the United States Congress to fund fully the essential air service program.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE:

WHEREAS S.223, the FAA Air Transportation Modernization and Safety Improvement Act, has been introduced in the United States Senate; and

WHEREAS Amendment 4 to S.223 by the senior senator from Arizona would eliminate funding for the essential air service program; and

WHEREAS the 44 communities in the state that benefit from the essential air service program under 49 U.S.C. 41731 - 41748 are the most remote and isolated communities in the nation; and

WHEREAS air carriers in the state that are subsidized by the essential air service program provide critical passenger, cargo, and mail services to remote communities; and

WHEREAS, for many remote communities in the state, air travel is not simply a convenience, but the only scheduled passenger service to the rest of the world, making it vital for basic economic, health, and safety needs; and

WHEREAS the essential air service program ensures that remote communities can maintain a link to the national air transportation system; and

WHEREAS Alaska is a young state, and, because of the size and the unique geography of the state, relatively few roads provide access to remote communities, making aircraft the dominant mode of transportation in many rural areas; and

WHEREAS the elimination of the essential air service program would significantly increase commodity prices and the cost of general passenger air travel essential to residents of the state's rural communities; and

WHEREAS, without the essential air service program, at least 12,000 Alaskans living off the road system would not be able to afford travel to regional hubs for essential medical care; and

WHEREAS the complete elimination of the essential air service program would have a severe negative economic effect on remote communities in the state, many of which are already economically depressed, and could destabilize those communities;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate supports the essential air service program and urges the United States Congress to reauthorize full funding for the program in S.223, the FAA Air Transportation Modernization and Safety Improvement Act.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of the United States; the Honorable Raymond L. LaHood, United States Secretary of Transportation; the Honorable John McCain, U.S. Senator; the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Mark Begich, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress; and all other members of the 112th United States Congress.