

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 11

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES MCKAY, Vance, Wool

Introduced: 2/18/21

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

A RESOLUTION

1 **Requesting the United States Congress to pass legislation that provides a temporary**
2 **waiver of the Passenger Vessel Services Act to allow cruise ships to sail directly to the**
3 **state from other United States ports.**

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

5 **WHEREAS** Canada has announced it will extend its ban on large cruise ships until at
6 least February of 2022; and

7 **WHEREAS** 46 U.S.C. 55103 (Passenger Vessel Services Act) places restrictions on
8 the transport of passengers by foreign vessels between ports or places in the United States to
9 which the coastwise laws apply; and

10 **WHEREAS** most large cruise ships that sail to the state are foreign flagged ships and
11 are required to stop in or depart from a Canadian port before arriving in the state; and

12 **WHEREAS**, because of Canada's ban on large cruise ships, the state faces a second
13 season of severely reduced tourism, which has the potential to devastate the already crippled
14 tourism industry; and

15 **WHEREAS** the COVID-19 pandemic has wreaked havoc on the state's economy,

1 which is already suffering from a recession; and

2 **WHEREAS** the state must do all it can to support the industries that keep its citizens
3 employed and help keep the struggling economy afloat; and

4 **WHEREAS** the state's leisure and hospitality industry lost more than 15,000 jobs at
5 the peak of the summer season compared to the same period in 2019; and

6 **WHEREAS** a temporary waiver of the Passenger Vessel Services Act allowing cruise
7 ships to sail to the state from United States west coast ports would help mitigate continued job
8 and revenue loss and provide major relief to an industry with an economic impact that spans
9 across every region of the state and employs people from Ketchikan to Nome;

10 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the United
11 States Congress to pass legislation that provides a temporary waiver of the Passenger Vessel
12 Services Act to allow cruise ships to sail directly to the state from other United States ports.

13 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, President
14 of the United States; the Honorable Kamala D. Harris, Vice President of the United States and
15 President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Dan Sullivan,
16 U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska
17 delegation in Congress; and all other members of the 117th United States Congress.