

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 22

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES ORTIZ, Chenault, Hughes, Tuck, Gruenberg, Foster

Introduced: 4/2/15

Referred: State Affairs

A RESOLUTION

1 **Urging the Canada Border Services Agency to keep the border between Hyder, Alaska,**
2 **and Stewart, British Columbia, open 24 hours a day.**

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

4 **WHEREAS** the residents of Hyder, Alaska, and Stewart, British Columbia, have
5 expressed concern regarding the economic ramifications of limiting the hours that the border
6 between those communities may be crossed; and

7 **WHEREAS** crossing the border is the only means by which residents of Hyder may
8 leave their enclaved town by road and is the route by which they would escape inland by road
9 in the event of a tsunami, flood, or other natural disaster; and

10 **WHEREAS** the Canada Border Services Agency plans to close the border daily in
11 both directions, preventing, without cause, American citizens from entering or leaving Hyder;
12 and

13 **WHEREAS** the residents of Hyder, Alaska, rely entirely on Stewart, British
14 Columbia, for medical and other emergency services; and

15 **WHEREAS** the Hyder Community Association and the District of Stewart have both
16 independently expressed strong support for keeping the border open 24 hours a day;

1 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the Canada Border
2 Services Agency to keep the border between Stewart, British Columbia, and Hyder, Alaska,
3 open 24 hours a day.

4 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honourable Steven Blaney, Minister of
5 Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness, Canada; and Luc Portelance, President, Canada
6 Border Services Agency.