

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 12

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATORS OLSON, Hoffman, Therriault, Kookesh, Wagoner, Huggins, McGuire, Meyer, Menard,
Paskvan, Stedman, Thomas, Stevens, Ellis

Introduced: 3/11/09

Referred: Community and Regional Affairs

A RESOLUTION

1 **Urging the United States Postal Service to reduce the rate increase for bypass mail in**
2 **Alaska.**

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

4 **WHEREAS** the bypass mail system developed by the United States Postal Service
5 has helped stabilize rural communities and economies, prevented overloading of postal
6 facilities, greatly reduced the cost of handling nonpriority mail, and enhanced affordable,
7 reliable, and safe passenger and freight service to rural Alaska; and

8 **WHEREAS** the nationwide increase in standard mail rates, which takes effect
9 May 11, 2009, will result in a rate increase of more than 40 percent for Alaska bypass mail;
10 and

11 **WHEREAS** rural Alaskans depend almost entirely on bypass mail service for
12 consumable items; and

13 **WHEREAS** the rate increase on Alaska bypass mail will severely affect Alaska rural
14 residents, who already bear the highest food and energy costs in the nation; and

15 **WHEREAS** the rate increase on Alaska bypass mail is too much, too fast, and too
16 devastating; and

1 **WHEREAS** the Alaska State Legislature acknowledges that, under the current
2 economic circumstances, the United States Postal Service must increase rates and lower costs
3 to continue providing a valuable service to the nation;

4 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States Postal
5 Service to reduce the postal rate increase on bypass mail in Alaska while continuing to work
6 with Alaska bypass shippers, carriers, and consumers to find ways to lower the costs of
7 moving and handling mail in Alaska.