

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 8

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE COMMUNITY AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Introduced: 4/30/18

Referred: Community and Regional Affairs

A RESOLUTION

1 **Requesting the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to locate its Alaska-**
2 **focused employees, programs, and assets in the state.**

3 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:**

4 **WHEREAS** Alaska's coast stretches between the North Pacific and Arctic Oceans,
5 bordering the Gulf of Alaska, Bering Sea, Chukchi Sea, and Beaufort Sea, for a length greater
6 than the coastlines of all other states combined; and

7 **WHEREAS** Alaska's fisheries generate approximately \$4,500,000,000 a year; and

8 **WHEREAS** the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration dedicates many
9 assets, such as the Alaska Fisheries Science Center, Alaska Regional Office, and the research
10 vessel Fairweather, to the study of the state's weather, water, and marine life; and

11 **WHEREAS** the Alaska Fisheries Science Center is located in Seattle, Washington,
12 even though its publicly stated mission is "to generate the scientific information and analysis
13 necessary for the conservation, management, and utilization of the [Alaska] region's living
14 marine resources and the environmental quality essential for their existence"; and

15 **WHEREAS** the Ted Stevens Marine Research Institute, part of the Alaska Fisheries
16 Science Center, is headquartered in Juneau, Alaska, and the institute's Auke Bay laboratories

1 facility is designed to accommodate up to 108 employees, the facility currently houses only
2 approximately 60 employees; and

3 **WHEREAS** the Alaska Regional Office is headquartered in Anchorage, Alaska, and
4 maintains field offices around the state that employ approximately 400 individuals conducting
5 field and laboratory research;

6 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the House of Representatives respectfully requests the
7 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to base its Alaska-focused assets in the
8 state so that the agency's study of the state's weather, water, and marine life can be best served
9 by personnel and infrastructure situated in the great state where their responsibilities lie; and
10 be it

11 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the House of Representatives respectfully requests that
12 the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration fully staff the Auke Bay laboratories
13 so that the facility may operate as designed; and be it

14 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the House of Representatives respectfully requests that
15 the director of the Alaska Fisheries Science Center be based full time in Juneau, Alaska.

16 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Wilbur L. Ross, Jr., United
17 States Secretary of Commerce; the Honorable Timothy Gallaudet, Ph.D., Acting Under
18 Secretary of Commerce For Oceans and Atmosphere and National Oceanic and Atmospheric
19 Administration Administrator, US Department of Commerce; and the Honorable Lisa
20 Murkowski and the Honorable Dan Sullivan, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young,
21 U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.