CS FOR HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 17(TRA)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Offered: 3/16/16
Referred: Rules
Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVE HUGHES

A RESOLUTION

Supporting the aviation industry; and urging the governor to make state-owned land available to the unmanned aircraft systems industry for the management and operation of unmanned aircraft systems and related research, manufacturing, testing, and training.

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

WHEREAS the overall health of the economy of the United States is highly dependent on the aviation industry; and

WHEREAS the civil aviation industry annually creates approximately 5.4 percent of the gross domestic product in the United States and contributes approximately $1,500,000,000,000 to the economy nationwide; and

WHEREAS the aviation industry generates more than 11,800,000 jobs, with estimated total employment-related earnings of $459,000,000,000; and

WHEREAS the state anticipates 173 new jobs in the unmanned aircraft systems industry that would generate approximately $9,400,000 in employment-related earnings and an additional 175 jobs indirectly created by the unmanned aircraft systems industry that would
bring $10,600,000 of employment-related earnings into the state's economy, as identified in
the McDowell Group's May 2013 report for the Alaska Center for Unmanned Aircraft
Systems Integration at University of Alaska Fairbanks; and

WHEREAS the aviation industry enables the economic benefits of tourism, shipping,
and travel for business or recreational purposes; and

WHEREAS ongoing development and implementation of unmanned aircraft systems
technologies, policies, and procedures will support continuing economic growth in the
aviation industry; and

WHEREAS the aviation industry affects the economies of large and small
communities across the United States; and

WHEREAS the use and regulation of unmanned aircraft systems must be integrated
with the use and regulation of manned aircraft systems to ensure that all aircraft can safely
navigate national airspace; and

WHEREAS the state owns approximately 27 percent of the state's landmass, and the
landmass of the state makes up approximately 20 percent of the landmass of the United
States; therefore, the state owns approximately five percent of the landmass of the United
States; and

WHEREAS the state can support the growth of the unmanned aircraft systems
industry and the advancement of unmanned aircraft systems technology by facilitating the use
or purchase of land by the unmanned aircraft systems industry for the purpose of research,
manufacturing, testing, training, management, and operation;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature supports the economic growth
of the unmanned aircraft systems industry in the state and encourages the establishment of
safe and responsible unmanned aircraft systems businesses in the state; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature urges the governor to
make state-owned land available to responsible designers, owners, developers, and operators
of commercial unmanned aircraft systems to use for research, manufacturing, testing, training,
management, and operation of those systems.