

1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 31
 2 INTRODUCED BY Senai Russell
 3 Stokoy Dolezal LeBoyer Totter Jack Yellowtail
 4 Hockett Kennedy Kimberley off Gargese
 5 Walen
 6 A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF
 7 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA REQUESTING THAT THE
 8 UNITED STATES PORT OF ENTRY STATION AT PIEGAN BE OPEN 16
 9 HOURS A DAY.

10 WHEREAS, although U.S. Highway 89 is an important route
 11 from the State of Montana into the Province of Alberta, the
 12 port of entry station at Piegan operates only one-third of
 13 each day; and

14 WHEREAS, the nearest alternate 24-hour highway crossing
 15 of the boundary between the United States and the Province
 16 of Alberta is located 135 miles away at Sweetgrass; and

17 WHEREAS, U.S. Highway 89 is a principal avenue of
 18 commercial traffic, interruption of which for any period of
 19 time seriously impedes economic activity; and

20 WHEREAS, U.S. Highway 89 is a major thoroughfare for
 21 skiers, business people, tourists, and other traffic from
 22 Alberta, encouragement of which is a significant component
 23 of Montana's efforts to stimulate its economy; and

24 WHEREAS, the restriction of hours at the port of entry
 25 at Piegan often cuts off the residents of Babb, Montana,
 from emergency medical services in Cardston, Alberta, during

1 the winter months when the highway south to Browning,
 2 Montana, is frequently impassable because of bad weather;
 3 and

4 WHEREAS, because the port of entry at Piegan is open for
 5 only one-third of each day, students in Montana and students
 6 in Alberta cannot compete in extracurricular activities or
 7 sports unless they stay overnight in either Montana or
 8 Alberta; and

9 WHEREAS, the lack of staffing at the United States port
 10 of entry station at Piegan contributes to serious law
 11 enforcement problems concerning illegal crossings; and

12 WHEREAS, any restriction of intercourse between the
 13 United States and Canada hinders the enhancement of good
 14 neighborliness that has long been the distinguishing
 15 attribute of the relationship between the two countries.

16
 17 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE
 18 OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

19 That the United States Immigration and Naturalization
 20 Service and the United States Custom Service be requested to
 21 operate the port of entry station at Piegan 16 hours each
 22 day.

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State send
 24 copies of this resolution to the Governor of the State of
 25 Montana, the Premier of the Province of Alberta, the



-2- INTRODUCED BILL
 HJR 31

LC 1736/01

- 1 Commissioner of the United State Customs Service, the
- 2 Commissioner of the Immigration and Naturalization Service,
- 3 and each member of Montana's Congressional Delegation.

-End-

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE
ON HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORTATION

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 37

INTRODUCED BY GERVAIS, RUSSELL, STICKNEY, DOLEZAL, SCHYE,
TOOLE, PECK, YELLOWTAIL, HOCKETT, KENNEDY, KIMBERLEY,
JERGESON, WHALEN, GAGE

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HJR 0037/02

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