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3100 Channel Drive, Suite 300 • Juneau AK 99801 • (907) 463-3488 • Fax (907) 463-3489
 E-mail: juneauchamber@gci.net • jcc@alaska.com • Web site: <http://www.juneauchamber.com>

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**A RESOLUTION BY THE GREATER JUNEAU CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
 OPPOSING THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE RECOMMENDATION TO REALIGN
 EIELSON AIR FORCE BASE
 Resolution No. 05-06**

WHEREAS, the Juneau Chamber of Commerce represents over 350 businesses within the City and Borough of Juneau; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the Juneau Chamber of Commerce is to advocate for economic vitality and to advance and promote economic and civic welfare; and

WHEREAS, the Juneau Chamber of Commerce recognizes and values the interconnectedness of Alaskan communities and their economies; and

WHEREAS, the Juneau Chamber seeks to provide leadership for political action on business issues; and

WHEREAS, the Juneau Chamber is disappointed by the announcement that Eielson Air Force Base (Eielson) has been identified by the Department of Defense for realignments; and

WHEREAS, the Juneau Chamber believes that Eielson holds a unique and important position to the overall defense of our nation which cannot be achieved by the placement of personnel and equipment elsewhere; and

WHEREAS, Eielson's position provides protection for the Trans Alaska Oil Pipeline System which carries 17 percent of our total domestic supply; and

WHEREAS, Eielson will provide that same security for the Natural Gas Pipeline when it is constructed; and

WHEREAS, Eielson has played a vital and integral role in our nation's military mission, the State of Alaska and the Greater Fairbanks area for more than 50 years, injecting millions of dollars into the local and State economy, providing a skilled labor force, and creating economic opportunity for a variety of large and small businesses; and

WHEREAS, the Juneau Chamber is concerned about the overall impact this realignment would have on the Greater Fairbanks area, the State of Alaska, and especially businesses that contribute to the overall economic health of our state; and

WHEREAS, Eielson's access to vast training resources including 60,000 square miles of dedicated airspace and its proximity to Fort Wainwright, home of the Army's 172nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, provides the opportunity for real-world, job training.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Juneau Chamber of Commerce objects to the realignment of Eielson Air Force Base as proposed by the Department of Defense and requests that the Commission reverse the realignment of recommendation and remove Eielson Air Force Base from the BRAC process.

AND THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Juneau Chamber of Commerce encourages the BRAC Commission to emphasize to President George W. Bush and Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld that Eielson Air Force Base is vital to the overall security of our nation and that the Department of Defense should seek to expand rather than diminish Eielson's strategic and unique position.

AND THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be distributed to Base Realignment and Closure Commission, Senator Ted Stevens, Senator Lisa Murkowski, Congressman Don Young, Governor Frank Murkowski, Alaska State Legislature, Mayor Jim Whitaker, Mayor Steve Thompson, Mayor Jeff Jacobson, and Mayor Bruce Botelho.

Approved by the Juneau Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors on June 22, 2005.

Chris Wyatt, Executive Director Juneau Chamber of Commerce