

EMERGENCY REQUEST of Speaker of the Assembly

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 17—Assemblyman Perkins

Joint Sponsors: Senators Amodei, Beers, Care, Carlton, Cegavske, Coffin, Hardy, Heck, Horsford, Lee, Mathews, McGinness, Nolan, Raggio, Rhoads, Schneider, Tiffany, Titus, Townsend, Washington and Wiener

FILE NUMBER.....

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION—Urging the Base Realignment and Closure Commission to reconsider and reject the recommendations of the Department of Defense concerning Naval Air Station Fallon, Nevada Air National Guard stationed at Reno-Tahoe International Airport and Hawthorne Army Depot.

WHEREAS, The United States Department of Defense conducted base realignments and closures in 1988, 1991, 1993 and 1995, resulting in the closure of 97 major bases, the realignment of 55 major bases and the closure or realignment of 235 minor bases across the United States; and

WHEREAS, Congress authorized base realignments and closures for 2005 in the National Defense Authorization Act of 2002, and, on May 13, 2005, the Department of Defense issued its recommendations for closures and realignments; and

WHEREAS, Included in those recommendations are the proposed realignments of Naval Air Station Fallon and the Nevada Air National Guard stationed at Reno-Tahoe International Airport, and the proposed closure of Hawthorne Army Depot; and

WHEREAS, It is critical to the State of Nevada that the Base Realignment and Closure Commission reconsider and reject these recommendations as set forth by the Department of Defense; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Defense has recommended realignment of Naval Air Station Fallon which will result in the disestablishment of the Aircraft Intermediate Maintenance Department Fallon and the Naval Air Depot North Island Detachment Fallon; and

WHEREAS, The realignment of the Nevada Air National Guard, 152nd Airlift Wing, stationed at Reno-Tahoe International Airport, is tantamount to a closure in that the recommendation to move eight C-130H aircraft, the Guard's only planes, to another base, would leave the Guard's engineering, construction and supply units in Nevada, but significantly reduce the need for these units; and

WHEREAS, The removal of these planes will eliminate approximately 260 full-time military and civilian jobs, and will most

likely cause 283 others who fulfill their traditional Air Guard duties at this station to lose their positions at the station; and

WHEREAS, Not only will the realignment leave the Guard with no flying mission, but it will leave Nevada's Adjutant General and the Guard with limited ability to provide Homeland Security and disaster assistance to Nevada and surrounding states in the event of an emergency or natural disaster; and

WHEREAS, The justification for this realignment states that the Nevada Air National Guard was unable to expand beyond ten C-130s, a statement that is not true—the Air Guard signed an agreement 4 years ago with the Airport Authority of Washoe County which provides for a land swap that would give the Guard four more planes, an agreement that the Air Force and National Guard Bureau still have on hold, an agreement that would allow up to twelve planes at the station; and

WHEREAS, The final recommendation by the Department of Defense, which will cause considerable adverse impact economically to the State of Nevada, is the proposed closure of Hawthorne Army Depot located in Mineral County; and

WHEREAS, The estimated savings of \$59.2 million to the Federal Government as the result of this closure is small compared to the damage to the local economy that will be caused by the closure of the Depot, Hawthorne's primary employer; and

WHEREAS, Hawthorne Army Depot plays a unique role in our nation's security, offering a remote location for weapons' training and storage of munitions and is the premier resource, recovery and recycling center for conventional ammunition; and

WHEREAS, In its Base Closure and Realignment Report, the Department of Defense includes Hawthorne Army Depot within the Reno-Sparks Metropolitan Statistical Area and notes that the loss of 326 jobs is less than 0.1 percent of the economic area employment, yet the Report fails to note that Hawthorne is located 133 miles from Reno-Sparks; and

WHEREAS, In reality, because Hawthorne is a town of approximately 3,300 and is the economic base for a county with an estimated population of 4,800, this closure will directly affect 10 percent of the city's population, not including the local businesses which now benefit from the presence of the Depot, including those employed by the Depot and also their families and the troops who travel to Hawthorne for training; and

WHEREAS, As in the past, and now, as our nation faces new security threats, the political leaders and residents of the State of Nevada have and will continue to support the military to meet the challenges they face; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY AND SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, JOINTLY, That the Nevada Legislature strongly urges the

Base Realignment and Closure Commission to reconsider the realignment of Naval Air Station Fallon and the Nevada National Air Guard, 152nd Airlift Wing, and the closure of Hawthorne Army Depot, and reject those recommendations as a significant threat to national security; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly prepare and transmit a copy of this resolution to each member of the Base Realignment and Closure Commission, the President of the United States, the Vice President of the United States as the presiding officer of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives and each member of the Nevada Congressional Delegation; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this resolution becomes effective upon passage.

