

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of State of the State of Minnesota is directed to prepare certified copies of this memorial and transmit them to the governor for conveyance to the United States Secretary of Transportation.

Presented to the governor March 23, 1993

Signed by the governor March 25, 1993, 3:35 p.m.

RESOLUTION 2—S.F.No. 371

A resolution memorializing the President and Congress to retain the Grand Forks Air Force Base, Grand Forks, North Dakota.

WHEREAS, the Grand Forks Air Force Base, North Dakota, is adjacent to our state and generates an annual economic gain of approximately \$225,000,000; and

WHEREAS, the closure of the Grand Forks Air Force Base would greatly increase unemployment in the area; and

WHEREAS, the East Grand Forks and Grand Forks communities and surrounding region, which encompasses both northeastern North Dakota and northwestern Minnesota, provide many resources and services which are essential to the mission of the Grand Forks Air Force Base; and

WHEREAS, the people of the Grand Forks Air Force Base and the civilian population of northwestern Minnesota and the surrounding region have established personal relationships that enhance the quality of life for everyone; and

WHEREAS, the Grand Forks Air Force Base is home to our nation's most modern bomber, the B-1B, and the most modern version of the minuteman missile, the Minuteman III; and

WHEREAS, the departure of the KC 135 R tankers from the Grand Forks Air Force Base has created available ramp space which could be used to house additional B-1B's; and

WHEREAS, during the years 1986 to 1987, \$17,000,000 were invested at the Grand Forks Air Force Base in the building of state-of-the-art maintenance facilities for the B-1B's; and

WHEREAS, the physical facilities of the Grand Forks Air Force Base are modern, in good repair and wholly adequate and appropriate for carrying out the mission of the Grand Forks Air Force Base; and

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WHEREAS, the Grand Forks Air Force Base is located in a rural setting and thereby enjoys uncrowded airspace which promises to remain uncrowded for the foreseeable future; and

WHEREAS, because the physical boundaries of the Grand Forks Air Force Base are not encroached upon by urban development, the Grand Forks Air Force Base enjoys the advantage of expandable boundaries; and

WHEREAS, the rapidity with which the world has changed, and indeed has become less stable as a result of the breakup of the Soviet Union and the reunification of Germany, would suggest that new threats could arise with equal rapidity; and

WHEREAS, the location of the Grand Forks Air Force Base renders it strategically essential to the defense of the United States; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the provisions of the Start II Treaty, the continued presence of the Grand Forks Air Force Base is essential in the event of the approval and development of the ABM System; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Legislature of the State of Minnesota that it supports the continued presence of the Grand Forks Air Force Base and urges the President and the Congress of the United States to maintain funding for the base.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that it urges the Governor of the State of Minnesota to initiate correspondence with all appropriate federal government agencies to encourage not only the retention of the Grand Forks Air Force Base in at least its current mission and its current strength, but also the expansion of the base by additional B-1B's, additional types of aircraft or by the establishment of a composite wing.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of State of the State of Minnesota is directed to prepare certified copies of this memorial and transmit them to the President of the United States, the United States Secretary of Defense, the chairman of the Senate Committee on Armed Services, the chairman of the House Committee on Armed Services, and Minnesota's Senators and Representatives in Congress.

Presented to the governor April 16, 1993

Signed by the governor April 19, 1993, 2:40 p.m.

New language is indicated by underline, deletions by ~~strikeout~~.