

## ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 153

# STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED MAY 8, 1997

By Assemblymen LeFEVRE and BLEE

- 1 **AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION** expressing the opposition of the General  
2 Assembly to the closing of the William J. Hughes Technical Center and  
3 calling on the Federal Aviation Administration to reject any  
4 recommendation that it be closed.  
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- 6 **WHEREAS**, A study conducted by Coopers and Lybrand has concluded that  
7 the Federal Aviation Administration could save money by consolidating the  
8 operations of its William J. Hughes Technical Center located in Egg Harbor  
9 Township, Atlantic County, with a facility in Oklahoma; and
- 10 **WHEREAS**, The technical center, with its 2,900 federal and private employees,  
11 is the FAA's primary facility for research in air-traffic-control systems,  
12 plane safety, and airport security; and
- 13 **WHEREAS**, The center has an internationally recognized technical staff with  
14 expertise and experience in testing and evaluation of air-traffic  
15 management, communication, navigation, and surveillance systems and in  
16 research and development of airport and aircraft safety requirements and  
17 aviation security facilities; and
- 18 **WHEREAS**, The center was responsible for developing, ahead of schedule and  
19 under budget, a solution to improve aging computer systems at the FAA's  
20 five regional air-traffic control centers after much of the FAA's Advanced  
21 Automation System Program to upgrade its air-traffic control systems was  
22 canceled; and
- 23 **WHEREAS**, In addition, the center's airport-technology researchers successfully  
24 developed and tested a "soft-ground arrestor system" that helps stop  
25 aircraft from overrunning runways, a system which the Port Authority of  
26 New York and New Jersey is installing at JFK airport and has contracted  
27 for installation at LaGuardia and Newark airports; and
- 28 **WHEREAS**, The federal government has \$200 million invested in the facilities  
29 and labs at the center--all of which would have to be rebuilt at today's  
30 prices in Oklahoma City if the study's recommendation is adopted; and
- 31 **WHEREAS**, Because of the independent contractors in the area who provide  
32 support services and because of employee housing needs which are filled  
33 throughout Atlantic County and surrounding counties, the closing of the  
34 center would result in the loss of many jobs in addition to those at the  
35 center and in the loss of tax ratables in the area's communities, and thus

1 would have a devastating impact on the greater South Jersey economy;  
2 now, therefore,

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4 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:*

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6 1. This House opposes the closing of the William J. Hughes Technical  
7 Center and calls upon the Federal Aviation Administration to reject any  
8 recommendation that the facility be closed.

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10 2. Duly authenticated copies of this resolution, signed by the Speaker of  
11 the General Assembly and attested by the Clerk thereof, shall be transmitted  
12 to the Federal Aviation Administration and to every member of Congress  
13 elected from this State.

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STATEMENT

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18 This resolution expresses the opposition of the General Assembly to the  
19 closing of the Federal Aviation Administration's William J. Hughes Technical  
20 Center in Egg Harbor Township, Atlantic County, and calls upon the FAA to  
21 reject any recommendation that the facility be closed.

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26 Expresses opposition of General Assembly to closing of the Federal Aviation  
27 Administration's William J. Hughes Technical Center in Egg Harbor Township,  
28 Atlantic County.