

Young says Coast Guard legislation 'gathering steam'

Congressman Don Young said that legislation which would make the consolidation of Coast Guard support functions subject to congressional review and approval is moving forward.

Young introduced the legislation earlier this month in response to the Coast Guard's announcement that 51 military and 27 civilian positions would be relocated from 17th Coast Guard District Headquarters in Juneau as a result of the plan.

"The bill is gathering steam," Young said. "Many members of the Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee have expressed support for the bill. There is strong sentiment up here that the impacts of the reorganization

have to be scrutinized more closely."

The Coast Guard Subcommittee held a hearing on the Fiscal Year '88 budget authorization for Coast Guard operations. In the hearing, Admiral Paul Yost, commandant of the Coast Guard, reiterated his defense of the reorganization as necessary to improve the efficiency of logistics and support operations and meet budget constraints.

In a related area, Young said that the Coast Guard has agreed to his request for additional personnel in the vessel documentation office in Juneau. Young said that another full-time documentation officer will be brought on board in Juneau within the month.