



February 29, 2012

Representative Bill Stoltze, Co-Chair
Alaska State Legislature
House Finance Committee
State Capitol, Room 515
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Re: HCR 23-Establishing the Alaska Arctic Policy Commission

Dear Representative Stoltze,

On behalf of Inuit Circumpolar Council-Alaska (ICC-Alaska), I am writing to express our support for HCR 23-Establishing the Alaska Arctic Policy Commission.

We are grateful that the State of Alaska Legislature has recognized the need for Alaska to prepare to be involved in managing the changing Arctic. We appreciate the leadership of Representative Reggie Joule. Through the work of the Northern Waters Task Force, he has done an excellent job to bring Arctic policy issues to the attention and forefront of the State of Alaska.

ICC-Alaska is a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization that works to advance Inuit culture and society on behalf of the Inupiat of the North Slope, Northwest and Bering Straits; the Siberian Yupik of St. Lawrence Island; and the Central Yupik of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta in Southwest Alaska. ICC-Alaska is a national member of ICC International, an international non-governmental organization. ICC was founded in 1977 and holds Consultative Status II with the United Nations. ICC is also a Permanent Participant at the Arctic Council. ICC strives to strengthen unity among Inuit of the circumpolar north; promote Inuit rights and interests on an international level; develop and encourage long-term policies that safeguard the Arctic environment; and seek full and active partnership in the political, economic, and social development of the circumpolar north.

We hope that the work done by the Northern Waters Task Force to highlight opportunities and challenges of the changing Arctic and the recommendations made, including the establishment of the Alaska Arctic Policy Commission, will position the State of Alaska to proactively engage in Arctic policy discussions and decision-making.

Most importantly, we feel that any efforts made by the State of Alaska in Arctic policy

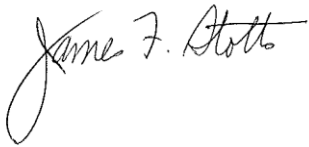
ICC ALASKA

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issues will only be successful by meaningfully involving local residents and communities in the process. We encourage the State of Alaska Legislature to consider additional funding to support meaningful local involvement. At the Arctic Council, where Arctic states convene to shape national and international policy, Permanent Participants or indigenous groups, are at the table and are meaningfully engaged. As a Permanent Participant, ICC has full consultation rights in connection with the Arctic Council's negotiations and decisions and has been recognized as making valuable contributions to the Arctic Council work. This is an excellent model to consider.

I am available to further discuss this at any time at your convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James F. Stotts". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

James F. Stotts,
President

cc. Representative Bill Thomas
Representative Reggie Joule
Representative Neal Foster
Senator Donny Olson
Senator Bert Stedman