

Alaska Arctic Policy Commission  
For Joint House/Senate State Affairs  
Juneau, Alaska | February 4, 2014



Russian  
Arctic

2,089,000

European  
Arctic

1,280,000

American  
Arctic

827,000



**US National Strategy for the Arctic Region**

- Promote U.S. leadership in the Arctic
- Advance U.S. national security, economic, and environmental interests
- Strengthen U.S. leadership in the Arctic
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January 2015 • NSM Implementation Plan Release



### Bering Strait

**STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS**  
Response Operations: Search and Rescue/On Pollution  
- Encourage and advocate for more adequate funding so that the U.S. Coast Guard can carry out its assigned and emerging duties in the U.S. maritime Arctic without competing its capacity to conduct all missions throughout Alaska.



# DC Giving More Attention to the Arctic



2013 to 2015



2015 to 2017



## US National Strategy for the Arctic Region

### Guiding Principles:

- Safeguard peace and stability
- Make decisions using best available information
- Pursue innovative arrangements
- Consult and coordinate with Alaska Natives

### Three lines of effort:

- Advance United States Security Interests
- Pursue Responsible Arctic Region Stewardship
- Strengthen International Cooperation

Role of the AAPC in this process: Providing Alaskan expertise, highlighting priorities and emerging challenges, raising Awareness in Lower 48 about Arctic

**January 30, 2014 -- NSAR Implementation Plan Released**



# Arctic Council Chair

2013 to 2015






2015 to 2017



Strategy for the Arctic Region



compiled by W.K. Dallmann, © Norwegian Polar Institute




-  Inuit Circumpolar Conference (ICC)
-  Arctic Athabaskan Council (AAC)  
dark: area of potential member communities (north of 60°)  
light and dark: Athabaskan cultural area
-  Gwich'in Council International (GCI)

## Permanent Participants of the Arctic Council

Permanent participation is equally open to other Arctic organizations of indigenous peoples with majority Arctic indigenous constituency, representing:

- a. a single indigenous people resident in more than one Arctic State; or
- b. more than one Arctic indigenous people resident in a single Arctic State.

- Black** indigenous peoples represented by the Permanent Participants
- Grey** Other indigenous peoples living in Arctic Council member countries (for USA: only Alaska)
- Brown** Potential member groups of the AAC. The AAC represents selected communities, not peoples.

-  Saami Council (SC)
-  Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North (RAIPON)
-  Aleut International Association (AIA)



Arctic Council Membership

# Alaska Arctic Policy Commission

26-member Commission formed within the Alaska Legislature in April 2012:

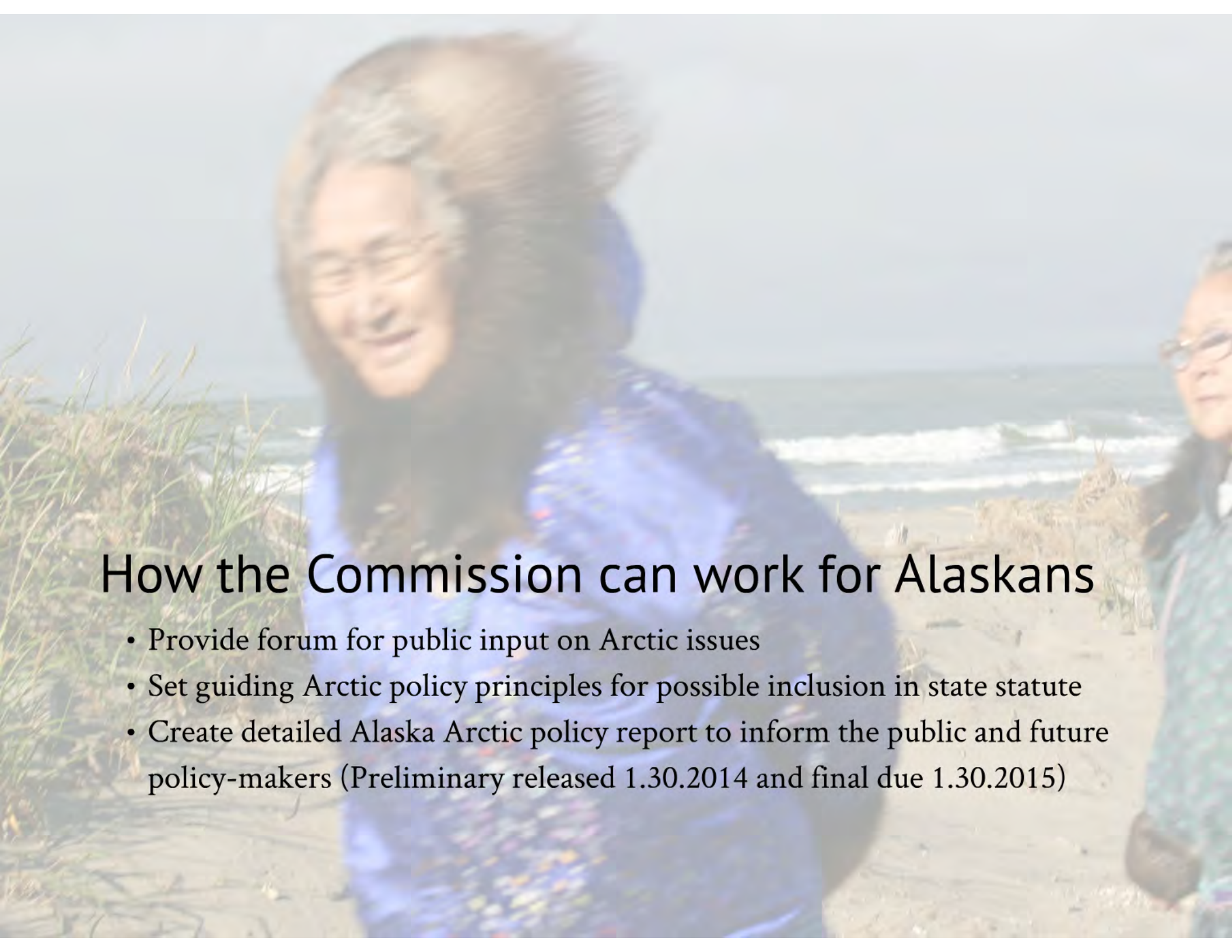
5 Senators and 5 Representatives

1 Executive branch member appointed by the Governor

15 Members appointed jointly by the President and the Speaker:

- Federal government
- A tribal entity
- Mining industry
- Oil & gas industry
- An Alaskan university or college
- Fisheries
- A local government
- A coastal community
- An int'l Arctic organization
- A conservation group
- Marine transportation industry
- A Native corporation
- Marine pilots



A woman with glasses and a blue jacket is smiling on a beach. The background shows waves and a clear sky. Another person is partially visible on the right side of the frame.

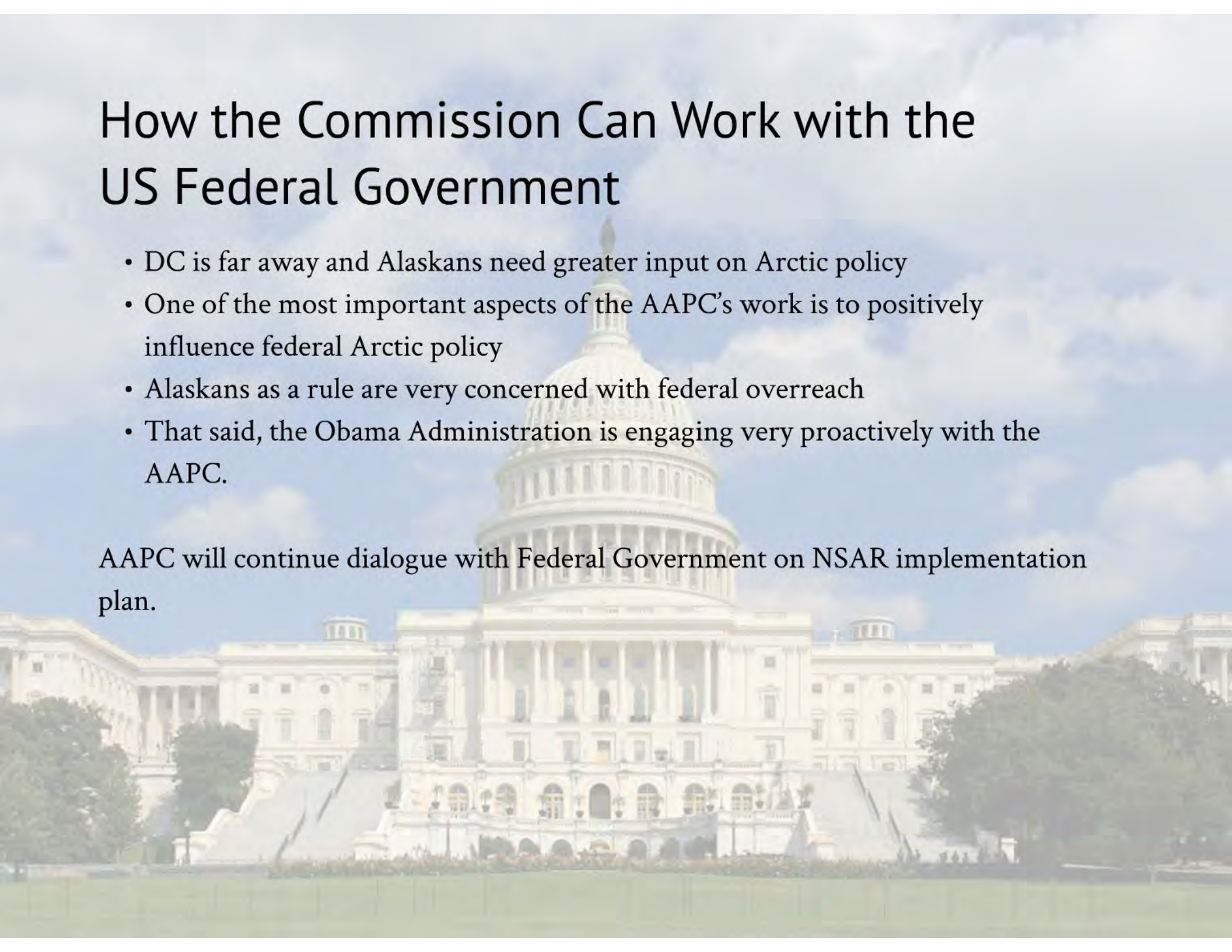
## How the Commission can work for Alaskans

- Provide forum for public input on Arctic issues
- Set guiding Arctic policy principles for possible inclusion in state statute
- Create detailed Alaska Arctic policy report to inform the public and future policy-makers (Preliminary released 1.30.2014 and final due 1.30.2015)

# How the Commission Can Work with the US Federal Government

- DC is far away and Alaskans need greater input on Arctic policy
- One of the most important aspects of the AAPC's work is to positively influence federal Arctic policy
- Alaskans as a rule are very concerned with federal overreach
- That said, the Obama Administration is engaging very proactively with the AAPC.

AAPC will continue dialogue with Federal Government on NSAR implementation plan.



# AAPC Letter of Intent

Sent to State Department and White House on 6.28.13

Early letter from AAPC was necessary due to the recent flood of federal Arctic policies and strategies

## KEY ASSUMPTIONS:

- State Leadership and Experience Valuable
- Need for Federal/State/Local collaboration
- Need for International Engagement and Governance

## EIGHT AREAS OF CONSIDERATION:

- Indigenous Perspectives and Priorities
- Governance
- Oil, Gas, and Mineral Exploration and Development
- Science and Research
- Energy
- Planning & Infrastructure
- Security & Marine Transportation
- Fisheries

# AAPC Vision Statements

Values community sustainability and thriving cultures

Ensures public safety and security

Advances economic development and a healthy environment

Incorporates transparency and inclusion into decision making



# Strategic Recommendations

An aerial photograph of a large, white and red icebreaker ship sailing through a dense field of sea ice. The ship is viewed from a high angle, showing its deck, superstructure, and the surrounding ice. The ice consists of numerous small, irregular floes. The ship's hull is red, and its superstructure is white with a black bridge. The sky is a pale, hazy blue.

Chosen based on high-impact and reasonable effort to implement

16 Strategic Recommendations in these areas:

- Governance and Indigenous Perspectives
- Science and Research
- Planning and Infrastructure
- Oil, Gas, and Mineral Resources
- Security and Defense
- Marine Transportation
- Response Operations: Search and Rescue/Oil Pollution
- Energy and Power
- Fisheries and Wildlife

We'll highlight some specific Recommendations later in the presentation

# Barrow

AAPC MEETING, JUNE 12 - 13

Arctic residents stressed the importance of:

- Governance begins at the local level
- Economic development should benefit communities nearest the impact, and include community revenue-sharing
- Food security is a priority
- Research should focus on people and their needs
- Onshore (ANWR, etc.) should be drilled before offshore areas

## STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS:

### Oil, Gas, and Mineral Resources

- Implement regional planning efforts that allow local stakeholders to identify and communicate priorities such as education, infrastructure, and development, to state and federal agencies.
- Develop a mechanism for revenue sharing from resource extraction for impacted communities, developing perpetual trust funds (where lacking) to finance community needs beyond the life of non-renewable resources.

# Unalaska

AAPC MEETING AUGUST 28-29

Dutch Harbor:

- Largest port by seafood volume in US
- Alaska's only true Arctic deep-water port
- Issues related to increased port traffic
- Environmental impact
- Infrastructure needs
- Foreign vessels

STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS:

Marine Transportation

- Encourage development of appropriately integrated systems to monitor and communicate Arctic marine information, and continue state and federal support for programs such as the Alaska Marine Exchange.

# Adak

- Westernmost municipality in the United States
- Former location of the Adak Army Base and Adak Naval Operation Base

## STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS:

### Planning and Infrastructure

- Conduct a comprehensive Arctic region economic and infrastructure assessment and planning process that integrates local, regional, state and federal planning efforts.



# Bethel

- Main port on the Kuskokwim and hub for 56 villages in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta
- Mostly Yupik population of about 6000

## STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS:

### Energy and Power

- Develop stable long-term funding mechanisms for state weatherization and energy efficiency programs while continuing robust efforts to find long-term energy solutions.



# Nome

Alaska Dept. of Transportation/US Army Corps of Engineers study is seeking the best location for Alaska Arctic Port. An initial feasibility study is directed at a dual-system for Nome and Port Clarence area.

## STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS:

### Response Operations: Search and Rescue/Oil Pollution

- Facilitate and secure public and private investment in support of critical aviation and maritime response infrastructure and economic development, to include consideration of direct state funding and/or public-private partnerships that address development of communications, a deep draft port(s), icebreaker(s), logistics hubs, and a WX C-130 size aircraft hangar(s).
- Expand and support the Department of Environmental Conservation's effort to involve communities through Sub-area Planning and provide local training to maintain limited supplies of oil spill response equipment and to ensure timely, effective and safe response and spill containment.



# Bering Strait

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Port Clarence

Nome

# Fairbanks

AAPC MEETING OCTOBER 22-23, 2013

- Hosted by University of Alaska Fairbanks, a center for Arctic research
- Meeting aligning with the Alaska Federation of Natives Annual Convention, October 24-26

## STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS:

### Science and Research

- Increase state funding to, and partnership with, the University of Alaska for Arctic research that aligns with state priorities and leverages the University's exceptional facilities and academic capacity.
- State agencies should consider adapting successful models – such as the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation and Yukon-Koyukuk Tribal Communications Protocol – to development agreements with local governments and tribes regarding the use of traditional knowledge and culturally sensitive practices in research and permitting programs.

Photo Credit: Kenneth Tape

# Anchorage

AAPC MEETING, DECEMBER 9-10

- Review of Preliminary Report
- Emphasized that the Preliminary Report is an evolving document
- Report highlights areas where the Commission may need to focus more attention in 2014, such as National Arctic security and Response Operations.
- Vision and Policy Statements and Strategic Recommendations Work Sessions

STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS:

- National Arctic security and Response Operations are two areas where given the complexity and importance of the issues even more attention and work is needed in 2014.

## Challenges in Alaska's Arctic

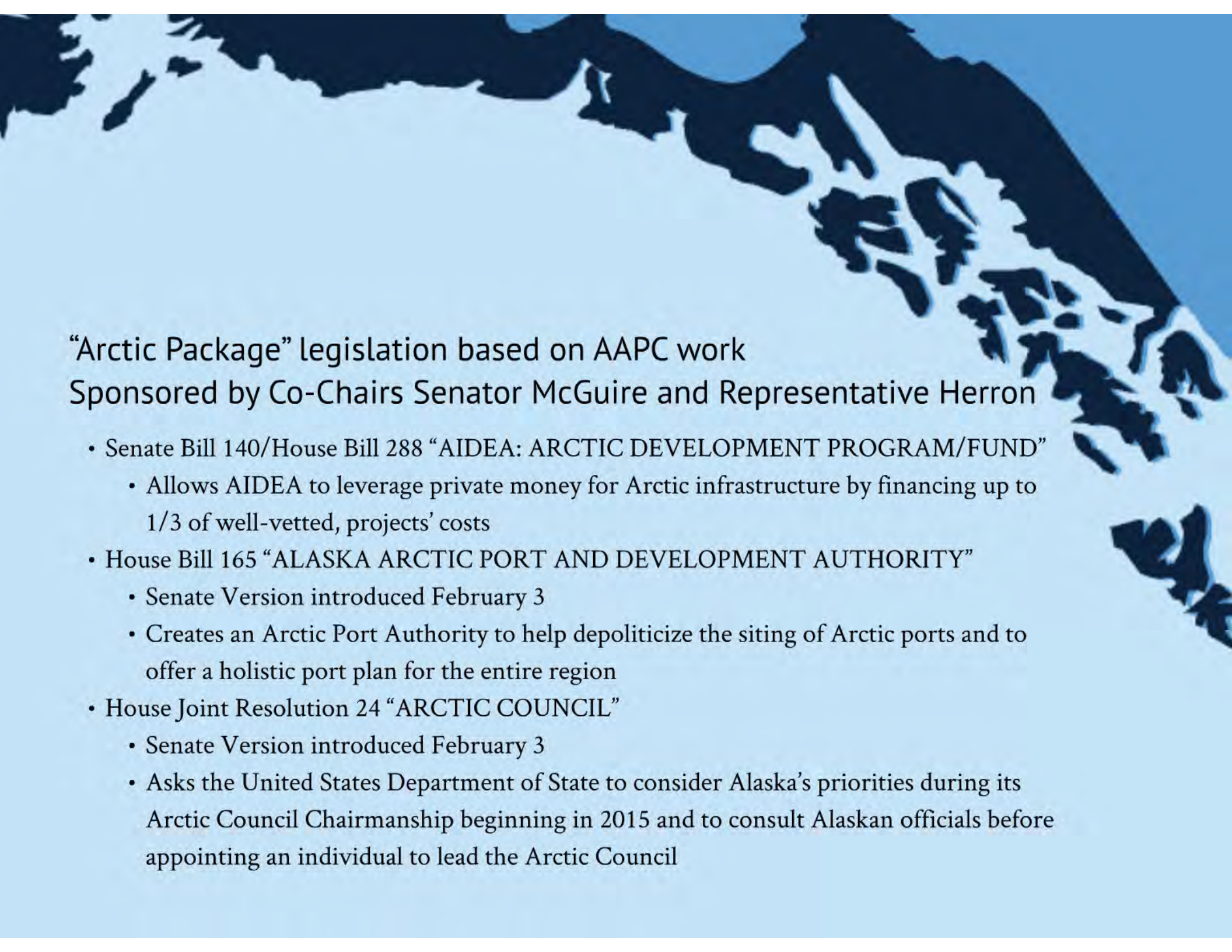
- Huge differences between resource wealth and community prosperity
- Isolated, remote communities
- Lack of infrastructure – energy, transportation, telecommunications, etc.
- Many layers of ownership of land and resources
- Increasingly active Arctic – search for role, way to mitigate risk, and manage expectations

## Role of Policy Commission

- Released Draft Alaska Arctic policy report January 30, 2014:
- Including policy statements that provide framework for State of Alaska strategy in the Arctic
- Inform local, state and federal policy makers
- Continue coordination with federal government
- Conduct outreach and education activities to raise the profile of the Arctic both within Alaska, nationally and internationally
- Work on final draft report due Jan. 30, 2015

"Arctic Package" legislation based on AAPC work  
Sponsored by Co-Chairs Senator McGuire and Representative Herron

- Senate Bill 140/House Bill 248 "AIDEA: ARCTIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM/FUND"
  - Allows AIDEA to leverage private money for Arctic infrastructure by financing up to 1/3 of well-extended projects' costs
- House Bill 165 "ALASKA ARCTIC PORT AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY"
  - Senate Version introduced February 3
  - Creates an Arctic Port Authority to help depellicitate the sting of Arctic ports and to offer a holistic port plan for the entire region
- House Joint Resolution 24 "ARCTIC COUNCIL"
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  - Asks the United States Department of State to consider Alaska's priorities during its Arctic Council Chairmanship beginning in 2015 and to consult Alaska officials before appointing an individual to lead the Arctic Council



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