

Representative Bob Herron

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House District 38
Kuskokwim, Yukon & Johnson Rivers
Kuskokwim Bay & Nelson Island

Akiachak
Akiak
Aniak
Atmautluak
Bethel
Chefornak
Chuathbaluk
Crooked Creek
Eek
Goodnews Bay
Kasigluk
Kipnuk
Kongiganak
Kwethluk
Kwigillingok
Lower Kalskag
Marshall
Mekoryuk
Mertarvik
Napakiak
Napaskiak
Newtok
Nightmute
Nunapitchuk
Oscarville
Platinum
Quinhagak
Russian Mission
Toksook Bay
Tuluksak
Tununak
Tuntutuliak
Upper Kalskag

CS HCR 5 (EDA)

Alaska Declares 2015-2017 the “Years of the Arctic”

Sponsor Statement

HCR 5 urges the Alaska State Legislature to declare 2015-2017 the “Years of the Arctic,” during which time the state of Alaska should promote its Arctic policy, follow up on strategic recommendations found in the Alaska Arctic Policy Commission (AAPC) Implementation Plan, and highlight for Alaskans and all Americans the value of being an Arctic state and nation. This is particularly good timing for such a declaration because the United States will Chair the Arctic Council from April 2015 to May 2017 and the AAPC just released its Final Report and Implementation Plan January 30, 2015.

The Alaska’s Arctic Policy as delineated in the AAPC reports and in HB 1 (Alaska’s Arctic Policy bill) is based on economic and resource development; the need for infrastructure investment; a healthy environment; transparent decision-making; the need to strengthen international collaboration, and continuing to cultivate healthy communities.

HCR 5 specifically resolves that:

- The Alaska State Legislature declares 2015-2017 the “Years of the Arctic” a period during which the state of Alaska should make every effort to highlight the Arctic to Alaskans and Americans;
- The Legislature encourages the state and its partners to work with the Institute of the North in encouraging the state to promote its Arctic policy and increase Arctic awareness;
- The Legislature encourages the state to promote its Arctic policy during this period and to address the strategic recommendations found in the Alaska Arctic Policy Commission Implementation Plan.