

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 39

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

NINETEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

**BY THE HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON WORLD TRADE AND STATE/FEDERAL
RELATIONS**

Introduced: 3/27/95

Referred: House Special Committee on World Trade and State/Federal Relations, Transportation

A RESOLUTION

1 Relating to the Northern Sea Route.

2 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

3 WHEREAS Alaska is strategically located on the Northern Sea Route between trading
4 partners on the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans; and

5 WHEREAS Alaska has many resources for which there are markets among the nations
6 on the Atlantic Ocean; and

7 WHEREAS studies by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and others predict increases
8 in commercial shipments via the Northern Sea Route through Alaska waters; and

9 WHEREAS, though the technology of Arctic ship design is advanced, the present fleet
10 of Arctic cargo ships has limited capacity to carry Alaska or international cargoes; and

11 WHEREAS Arctic research by the United States has focused on questions of
12 ecological balance and climate change and has directed less effort toward factors that directly
13 affect the cost of Arctic shipping; and

14 WHEREAS Alaskans living along the great rivers of the state and along the Arctic
15 coast will benefit from advances in Arctic technology;

16 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the Governor is respectfully
17 requested to direct the Alaska Department of Commerce and Economic Development to

1 aggressively pursue improved relations with Alaska's present trading partners and to seek new
2 markets and trading partners in Russia, other Arctic nations, and Europe; and be it

3 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the University of Alaska is respectfully requested to
4 consolidate its Arctic research and development programs so that limited funds are applied
5 efficiently with a special emphasis on the technical and economic aspects of waterborne
6 commerce in Arctic waters and along the Northern Sea Route; and be it

7 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Governor is respectfully requested to direct the
8 Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities to continue its cooperation with the
9 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in improving the competitiveness of Alaska's ports and with
10 the Federal Highway Administration in developing intermodal facilities that bring Alaskan
11 products to tidewater; and be it

12 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric
13 Administration is respectfully requested to perform a comprehensive review of the accuracy
14 of nautical charts of Alaska's Arctic waters and the approaches to the Northern Sea Route and
15 to accomplish those surveys that are necessary to improve nautical charts to the highest
16 practical standard of accuracy and utility; and be it

17 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the U.S. Coast Guard is respectfully requested to
18 perform a comprehensive review of aids to navigation that exist in Arctic waters of Alaska
19 and availability of other services that improve the safety of people, ships, and cargoes en
20 route, and to make improvements that will enhance these safety measures to the highest
21 practical standard; and be it

22 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is respectfully
23 requested to perform an investigation of the prospective navigation improvements along the
24 Arctic coast of Alaska and along the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers, with a view toward the
25 efficient supply of fuel and other supplies to rural Alaska communities located along these
26 waterways.

27 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable D. James Baker,
28 Administrator, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of
29 Commerce; Admiral Robert E. Kramek, Commandant, U.S. Coast Guard; Lt. General Arthur
30 Williams, Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and
31 the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S.

1 Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.