

SENATE CS FOR CS FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 27(STA)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE SENATE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Offered: 5/1/01

Referred: Rules

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES CHENAULT, Stevens, Kott, Green, Foster, Hayes, Cissna, Kerttula, Dyson, James, Croft, Kohring

A RESOLUTION

1 **Supporting the erection of monuments in Alaska, Russia, and Canada to commemorate**
2 **the World War II lend-lease program between the United States and the Union of Soviet**
3 **Socialist Republics.**

4 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

5 **WHEREAS** President Franklin Delano Roosevelt expressed a desire for close
6 collaboration with the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics against Germany and its allies; and

7 **WHEREAS** the federal Lend-Lease Act was enacted during World War II and
8 designated Ladd Field in Fairbanks, Alaska, now known as Fort Wainwright, as the exchange
9 point for war materials between the United States and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
10 from 1942 to 1945; and

11 **WHEREAS**, under the lend-lease program, roughly 8,000 aircraft hauling tons of
12 materials and supplies were flown nearly 9,000 miles from Great Falls, Montana, across
13 Canada and Alaska to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, with stops at Edmonton and
14 Whitehorse in Canada, at Fairbanks, Galena, and Nome in Alaska, and at Yakutsk,
15 Krasnoyarsk, and Novosibirsk in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics; and

1 **WHEREAS** many Alaska citizens worked together with Soviet citizens on this
2 cooperative program, and soldiers and their families from both countries made considerable
3 sacrifices to serve their countries; and

4 **WHEREAS** the cooperative lend-lease program demonstrated that two nations could
5 set aside their differing political views and cultural values to achieve a common, mutually
6 beneficial goal; and

7 **WHEREAS** the Alaska-Siberia Research Center plans to erect bronze monuments in
8 Fairbanks and Nome, Alaska, in Russia, and in Canada to commemorate the lend-lease
9 program; and

10 **WHEREAS** this project will contribute to the further understanding of Russian-
11 American relations and will provide new data on the World War II period in Alaska; and

12 **WHEREAS** the proposed monuments will highlight the strategic and social
13 importance of Alaska then and today and will seek to preserve the memories of those Alaska
14 citizens who shaped and participated in the lend-lease program; and

15 **WHEREAS** the Alaska-Siberia Research Center will be a recipient of funds for the
16 project and will be responsible for all financial and technical aspects of the project;

17 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature supports the Alaska-Siberia
18 Research Center project of erecting monuments in Fairbanks and Nome, Alaska, in Russia,
19 and in Canada to commemorate the lend-lease program between the United States and the
20 Union of Soviet Socialist Republics during World War II.

21 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Vladimir Putin, President,
22 Russian Federation; the Honorable Jean Chretien, Prime Minister of Canada; the Honorable
23 George W. Bush, President of the United States; the Honorable Colin Powell, United States
24 Secretary of State; the Honorable Anthony Principi, United States Secretary of Veterans
25 Affairs; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S.
26 Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska
27 delegation in Congress.