

STATE OF ALASKA SENATE

2017

Source
SR 2

Senate
Resolve No.
2



Establishing a Senate Special Committee on the Arctic.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE:

WHEREAS this state is what makes the United States an Arctic nation; and

WHEREAS the interests of the state are directly affected by Arctic policy; and

WHEREAS residents of the state, having lived and worked in the Arctic region for decades, have developed expert knowledge regarding a full range of activities and issues involving the region; and

WHEREAS the Arctic region is now framed by increasing activity, change, opportunity, globalization, resource development, a sensitive environment, and rich and diverse cultures; and

WHEREAS the Arctic region is a dynamic place that is changing rapidly; and

WHEREAS the Arctic region is becoming increasingly accessible because of receding sea ice and technological advances; and

WHEREAS the Arctic region constitutes the final frontier in exploration and opportunity; and

WHEREAS the Northern Sea Route along the coast of Russia and through the Bering

Strait is 40 percent shorter than the shipping route through the Suez Canal for shipping between Europe and Asia and is being increasingly used; and

WHEREAS the Arctic region contains 30 percent of the world's undiscovered natural gas and 13 percent of the world's undiscovered oil; and

WHEREAS the development of the state's natural resources is essential to the well-being of the residents of the state; and

WHEREAS the Arctic region represents one of the best opportunities for progress and economic development in the state; and

WHEREAS the United States and other nations are rapidly developing Arctic strategies and policies; and

WHEREAS it is essential that the federal government consult with the state when developing national Arctic strategies and policies; and

WHEREAS the Arctic region of the United States has a severe infrastructure deficit that creates a barrier to capitalizing fully on emerging opportunities in natural resource extraction, shipping, and tourism; and

WHEREAS capital intensity, federal regulatory uncertainty, and diminished access to state land through federal land holdings constitute barriers to the economic development of the Arctic region; and

WHEREAS the Arctic region of the United States has some of the highest energy costs in the nation; and

WHEREAS the use of science by the University of Alaska, the world's premier Arctic university, and of emerging technologies developed by residents of the state may create new ways to give an advantage to the state in the Arctic region; and

WHEREAS the Alaska Arctic Policy Commission was created as a nonpolitical body of legislators and experts with a duty to listen to and provide a voice for the people in future Arctic policy; and

WHEREAS the Alaska Arctic Policy Commission completed considerable work toward the advancement of a comprehensive Arctic policy; and

WHEREAS the implementation of the recommendations made by the Alaska Arctic Policy Commission is a goal of the Senate;

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate that a Senate Special Committee on the Arctic is

established to continue to examine issues related to the Arctic in the state; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the President of the Senate shall determine the number of senators to be members of the committee and shall appoint the members and designate a member to chair the committee; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate Special Committee on the Arctic may meet during and between sessions of the Thirtieth Alaska State Legislature and is terminated on the convening of the First Regular Session of the Thirty-First Alaska State Legislature.