

**From:** [John Rodda](#)  
**To:** [Julia OConnor](#)  
**Subject:** Re: HJR 11  
**Date:** Friday, March 14, 2025 7:40:56 AM

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Thanks Julia,

Additional background information for you to consider adding to HJR No.11 in support of the language already included.

1. For decades, Alaska and its Canadian neighbors have long supported and engaged in International Sport and Cultural exchanges.
2. The Arctic Winter Games, founded in 1967, and first held in Yellowknife, NWT, in 1970, are a testament to the three founding members of Alaska, Yukon Territory, and Northwest Territory.
3. The Arctic Winter Games has grown from the original three members to seven permanent members and also includes Northern Alberta, Nunavik, Nunavut, and Greenland. There is one guest member, the Sapmi people of Scandinavia.
4. The Arctic Winter Games are considered the premier circumpolar sport and cultural event for northern youth residing above the 55th parallel.
5. The Arctic Winter Games brings together 2,000 athletes, coaches, mission staff, and cultural performers every two years and is hosted by one or more of the permanent members.
6. The Arctic Winter Games was first hosted by Anchorage in 1974 and since then, has been hosted by Fairbanks, Eagle River, Kenai Peninsula, and most recently by the Mat-Su Borough in 2024.
7. The next Arctic Winter Games are scheduled for March 2026 and will be hosted by Whitehorse, our closest Canadian neighbors and friends.

I would encourage the sponsors of both HJR No. 11 and SJR No. 9 to add emphasis to the value of sports and our relationships with our Canadian partners as part of the the text. I would be pleased to answer any questions.

Respectfully,

John Rodda  
President, Arctic Winter Games International Committee

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On Wed, Mar 12, 2025 at 3:36 PM Julia OConnor <[Julia.OConnor@akleg.gov](mailto:Julia.OConnor@akleg.gov)> wrote:

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