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SB 139 The Alaska Critical Infrastructure and Land Ownership Act Sponsor Statement

SB 139 is crafted to protect Alaska's security, economic independence, and sovereignty by establishing clear, enforceable restrictions on land ownership near critical infrastructure, military installations, and agricultural regions. In an era of increasing global tensions and strategic competition, this bill addresses the pressing need to safeguard Alaska's unique assets from potential adversarial foreign influence, ensuring that our state remains a stronghold of stability, self-reliance, and security within the United States.

The legislation introduces two primary protections. First, it prohibits citizens of designated foreign nations—specifically China, Iran, North Korea, and Russia—as well as companies tied to these nations, from purchasing, leasing, or otherwise acquiring land within 100 miles of military installations across Alaska. This buffer zone is critical given Alaska's pivotal role in national defense, hosting numerous bases and facilities essential to U.S. military operations.

Secondly, the bill imposes stringent limitations on the acquisition and transfer of agricultural land by foreign business entities and individuals from countries identified as foreign adversaries by the US Secretary of Commerce under 15 C.F.R. 791.4 (China, Cuba, Iran, North Korea, Russia, and Venezuela). These restrictions preserve Alaska's ability to sustain its agricultural productivity, ensuring food security and economic resilience for our communities. As Alaska looks to grow its agricultural industry, it's imperative that we take proactive steps to prevent future encroachment on our agricultural lands.

To enforce these provisions, SB 139 grants the Attorney General authority to investigate suspected violations and pursue forfeiture of land acquired in breach of the law.

US foreign adversaries have already purchased ag lands and properties near military bases in the lower 48. Let's ensure that does not happen in Alaska. By enacting SB 139, we will protect Alaska's land, resources, and people from external threats. Let's maintain control over our destiny, ensuring that our military installations remain secure and impervious, our agricultural lands remain productive and unassailable, and our communities remain strong and safe.