

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 10
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATORS COSTELLO, Hughes, Begich

Introduced: 4/7/17

Referred: Labor and Commerce, State Affairs

A RESOLUTION

1 **Proclaiming 2018 to be the Alaska Year of Innovation.**

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

3 **WHEREAS** growing Alaska's economy is imperative to improving the lives of
4 Alaskans; and

5 **WHEREAS** ingenuity and innovation support a dynamic economy and can help
6 diversify Alaska's economic base; and

7 **WHEREAS** innovation is a new product or process that creates value and drives
8 growth; while innovation is not limited to technology, innovative technology has transformed
9 industries like health care, transportation, and education; and

10 **WHEREAS** entrepreneurship is key to commercializing innovations, researchers have
11 found a link between technological innovation and economic development, and cutting-edge
12 technology lies at the heart of economic leadership; and

13 **WHEREAS** entrepreneurs entering the state's market spurs economic growth, and
14 diversifying Alaska's economy through innovation can help address Alaska's fiscal
15 challenges; and

16 **WHEREAS** Alaskans are innovators by necessity, with pioneers, builders, scientists,

1 fishermen, soldiers, loggers, engineers, teachers, miners, law enforcement personnel, oil field
2 workers, and artists responding to the state's harsh climate and remoteness with forward-
3 thinking solutions; and

4 **WHEREAS** the National Bureau of Economic Research reports that nearly all new
5 job creation annually comes from startups; without new businesses, job creation in the United
6 States would have been negative over the last 30 years, with firms in their first year
7 responsible for creating an average of 3,000,000 jobs a year; and

8 **WHEREAS** data-driven innovation is a key pillar of 21st century growth, through
9 significantly enhanced productivity, economic competitiveness, and social well-being; and

10 **WHEREAS** innovation must be culturally and publicly encouraged, and Alaska
11 should pursue policies that foster creativity and new ideas that create an environment where
12 entrepreneurs can thrive and thereby improve and strengthen the economy of the state; and

13 **WHEREAS** the Juneau Economic Development Council hosts an annual innovation
14 summit that brings together innovators in the state who move Alaska forward by maintaining,
15 expanding, and creating jobs and economic opportunities; in addition, the innovation summit
16 provides a platform for inductees to the Alaska Innovators Hall of Fame to share exemplary
17 efforts to grow a culture of innovation in the state; and

18 **WHEREAS** 20 percent of innovations come from collaborations between multiple
19 institutions, half of which are public-private partnerships between private companies and
20 universities or government research labs;

21 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature proclaims 2018 as the Alaska
22 Year of Innovation.