

# Representative Dean Westlake

## Alaska State Legislature | District 40

Contact:

State Capitol Rm 24

Phone: (907) 465-3473

Rep.Dean.Westlake@akleg.gov



· Special Committee on Arctic, Economic Development,  
and Tourism, Chair  
· Resources Committee, Vice Chair  
· Community and Regional Affairs Committee  
· Special Committee on Energy

Kotzebue · Kiana · Ambler · Buckland · Deering · Kivalina · Kobuk · Noorvik · Noatak · Selawik · Shungnak · Red Dog  
Barrow · Nuiqsut · Kaktovik · Wainwright · Point Hope · Point Lay · Anaktuvuk Pass · Atkasuk · Prudhoe Bay  
Alakaket · Alatna · Bettles · Deering · Evansville · Coldfoot · Hughes · Wiseman

## Sponsor Statement

### HJR 19: Arctic Marine Safety Agreements

Since 2008 there has been increased vessel traffic in the Bering Sea. Many of these vessels are transiting from the Northern Sea Route to the North Pacific Ocean. Vessels not calling on a port in the United States are considered innocent passage and not subject to United States safety or spill prevention measures.

Prevention measures include vessel tracking and monitoring, prescribed routing measures, immediate notification of loss of vessel power or steering, prepositioned towing packages and ship arrestors, dynamic protection of local marine mammal resources, among others.

The Arctic Waterways Safety Committee was formed in 2014 by Arctic Municipalities, marine mammal hunting groups, and Arctic marine ship operators to promote and identify safe and environmentally responsible shipping operations in the Arctic.

Without universal prevention measures, vessels on innocent passage will not be subject to safety and spill prevention measure standards or regulations. This lack of uniformity makes Alaska, and its' residents, vulnerable to mishaps outside of the jurisdiction of the United States to enforce.

HJR 19 urges the Governor of Alaska and the state's congressional delegation to promote and adopt spill prevention measures into international agreements, and furthermore, for the President of the United States and the United States Department of State to initiate negotiations with the state's coastal neighbors to enter into such agreements.

For more information, please contact my staff, Jesse Logan, at 907-465-3473, or [jesse.logan@akleg.gov](mailto:jesse.logan@akleg.gov)