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SPONSOR STATEMENT HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 37 – VERSION A

March 30, 2026

House Joint Resolution 37 recognizes the growing challenge of marine debris along Alaska’s vast and remote coastline and expresses the Legislature’s support for coordinated efforts to address it. With more shoreline than the rest of the United States combined, Alaska faces a disproportionate burden from debris carried by global ocean currents, much of which originates far beyond our borders.

Marine debris threatens wildlife, disrupts fisheries, and undermines the subsistence, commercial, and tourism economies that coastal communities depend on. Despite not creating the problem, many of Alaska’s rural and tribal communities bear the cost of cleanup, often facing significant logistical and financial barriers to removing and properly disposing of debris.

HJR 37 calls for stronger federal partnership by urging agencies like NOAA and the EPA to increase funding and reduce barriers to access, while also encouraging continued collaboration among state, local, tribal, and nonprofit partners. This resolution affirms Alaska’s commitment to protecting its coastlines and ensuring that those on the front lines of this issue have the support they need to keep our shores clean and our communities strong.