

SPONSOR SUBSTITUTE FOR SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 18

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

NINETEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATORS ADAMS, Zharoff, Lincoln, Hoffman, Phillips, Duncan

Introduced: 3/23/95

Referred: CRA, STA

A RESOLUTION

1 **Relating to establishment of an Arctic council.**

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

3 **WHEREAS** there are many Arctic issues that are common to the nations of the
4 circumpolar north, and these issues can be addressed most effectively in a multilateral forum
5 that promotes cooperation and concerted action; and

6 **WHEREAS** a regional multilateral forum for the Arctic would provide political energy
7 and focus for anticipating and addressing current and future problems of the Arctic,
8 capitalizing on new opportunities for the Arctic, and involving residents of the Arctic in a
9 discussion of the issues that affect them directly; and

10 **WHEREAS** the creation of a multinational Arctic council has been proposed to
11 provide a permanent, intergovernmental policy forum for the eight Arctic nations, including
12 the United States, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia, and Sweden; Canada,
13 the Clinton administration, and the administration of the State of Alaska have indicated that
14 they support creation of the council; and

15 **WHEREAS** Alaska should play a prominent and active role in developing a policy
16 forum for the Arctic; and

17 **WHEREAS** an Arctic council would be the only existing international institution that

1 is mandated to address and manage the full range of common Arctic concerns; and

2 **WHEREAS** an Arctic council would be a key body to ensure international cooperation
3 and coordination on sustainable development of the Arctic; and

4 **WHEREAS** an Arctic council would ensure greater efficiency and effectiveness in
5 handling Arctic issues, by providing focus and, where appropriate, policy direction to existing
6 Arctic-related organizations, creating by consensus additional working groups only where
7 necessary, and by influencing and coordinating with other international organizations;

8 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature supports the establishment of
9 an Arctic council consisting of the eight nations having territory in the Arctic and urges the
10 President and the Congress of the United States to take whatever action is necessary to support
11 establishment of an Arctic council and to enable the United States to become an active
12 member of the council.

13 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Bill Clinton, President of the
14 United States; to the Honorable Al Gore, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and President
15 of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Strom Thurmond, President Pro Tempore of the U.S.
16 Senate; the Honorable Newt Gingrich, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the
17 Honorable Warren Christopher, U.S. Secretary of State; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and
18 the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S.
19 Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.