

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 16

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES JAMES, Joule, Morgan, Green

Introduced: 2/22/99

Referred: House Special Committee on World Trade and State/Federal Relations, State Affairs

A RESOLUTION

1 Congratulating the government and the people of the new Canadian territory of
2 Nunavut.

3 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

4 WHEREAS, under a land claim settlement signed six years ago between the Canadian
5 Government and the aboriginal Inuit people of Canada's eastern Arctic region, part of the
6 Northwest Territories of Canada has become a new autonomous territory named Nunavut,
7 meaning "our land" in Inuktitut; and

8 WHEREAS the Inuit people of Nunavut share many cultural ties with the Inuit people
9 of Alaska, including the derivation of their identity from the land they inhabit and a profound
10 attachment to the earth that governs how they live on it, how they relate to each other, and
11 how they regard the outside world; and

12 WHEREAS Nunavut, which consists of 2,000,000 square kilometers of land spread
13 over three time zones with a population of about 25,000 people, shares many of the societal
14 pressures and economic development issues that face Alaskans, including issues relating to
15 health care, welfare, mining, tourism, and employment; and

16 WHEREAS the people of Nunavut have recently elected 19 lawmakers who will

1 select a premier and cabinet at the first meeting of the Nunavut Legislative Assembly on
2 April 1, 1999;

3 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature commends the people of
4 Nunavut for their strong demonstration of representative democracy in action as evidenced by
5 the 88 percent voter turnout in their recent election; and be it

6 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature and the people of Alaska
7 congratulate the Nunavut people for their success in establishing a homeland and government
8 that will be uniquely responsive to their needs and reflective of their values and traditions; and
9 be it

10 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature and the people of Alaska
11 congratulate the newly-elected lawmakers of Nunavut and stand ready to cooperate with them
12 and with all of the people of Nunavut in areas of mutual concern and interest.

13 **A COPY** of this resolution shall be sent to the government of Nunavut in the capital
14 of Iqaluit on Baffin Island, Canada.