

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 44

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE SENATE LABOR AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE

Introduced: 4/9/02

Referred: Labor and Commerce, Finance

A RESOLUTION

1 **Relating to preparation of a joint state-federal research and development plan.**

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

3 **WHEREAS** research and development activities in the public, private, and academic
4 sectors of Alaska are a driver in the economy worth several hundred million dollars each year,
5 and employ thousands of Alaskans; and

6 **WHEREAS** successful research and development activities serve to further impel
7 Alaska's economy, health, and environment through the application of knowledge toward
8 efficient resource extraction, resource protection, provision of human health, and the export of
9 intellectual property; and

10 **WHEREAS** the State of Alaska supports robust research and development through
11 funding of science and engineering in its state agencies, the Alaska Science and Technology
12 Foundation, the Alaska Aerospace Development Corporation, the University of Alaska, the
13 WAMI medical program, and scholarship support for college and graduate students; and

14 **WHEREAS** the federal government is a major provider of support for facilities and
15 activities in Arctic research, marine research, health and environmental research in Alaska,

1 and, through the Department of Defense, has installed and maintains a Cold Regions Testing
2 Center at Fort Greely, a supercomputer at the University of Alaska, and the research vessel
3 Alpha Helix at Seward, in addition to other facilities; and

4 **WHEREAS** state officials and appointees of the Governor, together with federal
5 officials and appointees of the President, direct the expenditure of income from hundreds of
6 millions of dollars of endowment funds in the North Pacific Research Board, the Exxon
7 Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council, the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund, the Prince
8 William Sound Oil Spill Recovery Institute, and the Conservation and Reinvestment Act; and

9 **WHEREAS** much of this joint spending occurs with neither legislative oversight nor
10 direction from the Alaska State Legislature on basic priorities, missions, or measures of
11 effectiveness; and

12 **WHEREAS** common efforts to diversify Alaska's economy and safely extract its
13 resources are likely to place a greater reliance on government supported research and
14 development in years to come;

15 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature requests the Alaska Science and
16 Technology Foundation and the University of Alaska, on behalf of state agencies, to work
17 with the U.S. Arctic Research Commission and the Interagency Arctic Research Policy
18 Committee, on behalf of federal agencies, to develop a joint research and development plan to
19 help expand and diversify Alaska's economy, strengthen and maintain the health of state
20 research institutions, and protect the health of Alaskans and the environment of Alaska; and
21 be it

22 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the
23 President of the Senate, respectively, shall appoint two members of each body to participate
24 with this effort and to ensure that support is provided from legislative staff and that
25 recommendations for legislative guidance and oversight are appropriately considered; and be
26 it

27 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the parties drafting the joint research and development
28 plan identify ways to ensure that the federal and state governments work together to identify
29 and assess areas of high economic potential from resource development and tourism on
30 federal and state lands in the state; and be it

31 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the joint research and development plan be presented

1 to the Alaska State Legislature during the First Regular Session of the Twenty-Third Alaska
2 State Legislature as well as to the Congress and the President through the U.S. Arctic
3 Research Commission, which is so empowered by federal law; and be it

4 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that state agencies and state-appointed members of joint
5 state-federal boards are asked to assist in every way possible in this effort.

6 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to Dr. John H. Marburger, III, Science
7 Advisor to the President of the United States; George B. Newton, Chair, U.S. Arctic Research
8 Commission; Dr. Rita R. Colwell, Director, National Science Foundation; the Honorable
9 Mark R. Hamilton, President, University of Alaska; Ronald A. Duncan, Chair, Alaska Science
10 and Technology Foundation; Deborah R. Marshall, Director, Alaska InvestNet; Helvi
11 Sandvik, Chair, Alaska State Chamber of Commerce; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and
12 the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S.
13 Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.