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**SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 17**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

**BY SENATORS MCGUIRE, Hoffman, Davis, Egan, Paskvan, Menard, Ellis, Meyer, Huggins, Giessel, Dyson, Wagoner, Stevens, Thomas**

**REPRESENTATIVES Kerttula, Guttenberg, Herron, Johnson, Kawasaki, Millett, Holmes**

**Introduced: 2/6/12**

**Referred: State Affairs**

**A RESOLUTION**

1 **Welcoming the Arctic Council Task Force for Arctic Marine Oil Pollution Preparedness**  
2 **and Response to the state for its March 2012 meeting and urging the task force to use its**  
3 **time in the state to inform and inspire the work of the task force.**

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

5 **WHEREAS** the 2004 Ministerial meeting of the Arctic Council directed the  
6 Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment Working Group to conduct a comprehensive  
7 Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment; and

8 **WHEREAS** the 2009 Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment report recommended that  
9 the Arctic states enhance mutual cooperation to prevent oil spills; and

10 **WHEREAS**, at the May 2011 Ministerial meeting of the Arctic Council, the Senior  
11 Arctic Officials recommended that the Ministers mandate a task force to develop an  
12 international instrument on Arctic marine oil pollution preparedness and response to be  
13 presented at the next Ministerial meeting of the Arctic Council in 2013; and

14 **WHEREAS** the Arctic Council Task Force for Arctic Marine Oil Pollution  
15 Preparedness and Response is developing the Instrument on Cooperation on Marine Oil

1 Pollution Preparedness and Response in the Arctic, a framework for international  
2 collaboration in combating incidents or threats of marine oil pollution, to which eight Arctic  
3 states are a party; and

4 **WHEREAS** the Arctic Council Task Force for Arctic Marine Oil Pollution  
5 Preparedness and Response is holding its third meeting in Alaska in March 2012;

6 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature welcomes the Arctic Council  
7 Task Force for Arctic Marine Oil Pollution Preparedness and Response to the state for its  
8 March 2012 meeting and urges the task force to use its time in the state to inform and inspire  
9 the work of the task force; and be it

10 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature wishes the Arctic Council  
11 Task Force for Arctic Marine Oil Pollution Preparedness and Response Godspeed in their  
12 work to develop the Instrument on Cooperation on Marine Oil Pollution Preparedness and  
13 Response in the Arctic; and be it

14 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that vessels transiting the Bering Strait and Aleutian  
15 regions and all vessels in innocent passage in Arctic waters should have adequate oil spill  
16 contingency plans and response capacity for marine oil spills that acknowledge the critical  
17 role of response organizations, indigenous people, state and local governments, and response  
18 organizations in preparedness and response; and be it

19 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges ships in the Bering  
20 Strait and Aleutian regions voluntarily to engage local authorities in contingency planning,  
21 and that the Instrument on Cooperation on Marine Oil Pollution Preparedness and Response  
22 in the Arctic encourages that engagement; and be it

23 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature recognizes the importance  
24 of cooperation among Arctic nations and the dedicated efforts of the Arctic Council Task  
25 Force for Arctic Marine Oil Pollution Preparedness and Response to develop effective plans  
26 for preparedness and response to marine oil pollution in the Arctic; and be it

27 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature recognizes the usefulness  
28 of conducting joint training exercises and exchanging information and experience regarding  
29 marine pollution preparedness and response.

30 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton,  
31 United States Secretary of State; Admiral Robert J. Papp, Commandant, United States Coast

1 Guard; Ambassador David A. Balton, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Oceans and Fisheries,  
2 United States Department of State; Rear Admiral Thomas F. Ostebo, Commander,  
3 Seventeenth Coast Guard District; Gustaf Lind, Chair, Arctic Council, Senior Arctic Officials,  
4 and Senior Arctic Official of Sweden; Julia L. Gourley, Arctic Council, Senior Arctic Official  
5 of the United States; Sheila Riordon, Arctic Council, Senior Arctic Official of Canada; Nauja  
6 Bianco, Arctic Council, Senior Arctic Official of Denmark, Greenland, and Faroe Islands;  
7 Hannu Halinen, Arctic Council, Senior Arctic Official of Finland; Hjalmar W. Hannesson,  
8 Arctic Council, Senior Arctic Official of Iceland; Karsten Klepshvik, Arctic Council, Senior  
9 Arctic Official of Norway; Anton Vasiliev, Arctic Council, Senior Arctic Official of the  
10 Russian Federation; and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Mark Begich,  
11 U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska  
12 delegation in Congress.