

**HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 5**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

**BY REPRESENTATIVE HERRON**

**Introduced: 2/20/15**

**Referred: House Special Committee on Economic Development, Tourism, and Arctic Policy, Finance**

**A RESOLUTION**

1 **Declaring 2015, 2016, and 2017 to be the Years of the Arctic; encouraging the state and**  
2 **its partners to join the Institute of the North; and encouraging the state to promote its**  
3 **Arctic policy during the Years of the Arctic and to take action to address the strategic**  
4 **recommendations in the Arctic Policy and Implementation Plan of the Alaska Arctic**  
5 **Policy Commission.**

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

7 **WHEREAS** residents of the state are at the forefront of emerging economic and  
8 resource development opportunities, vibrant healthy communities, and circumpolar  
9 cooperation; and

10 **WHEREAS** the vision of the state for the Arctic is based on economic resource  
11 development, a healthy environment, secure and safe communities, and transparent decision  
12 making; and

13 **WHEREAS** the Arctic is an integral part of the identity of the state, home to many  
14 residents of the state, and an important part of the history, culture, and prosperity of the state;  
15 and

1           **WHEREAS** the Arctic is a significant geopolitical feature of the nation; and

2           **WHEREAS** the Arctic is becoming increasingly accessible, presenting a multitude of  
3 opportunities that should be realized; and

4           **WHEREAS** the draft Arctic Policy and Implementation Plan, released by the Alaska  
5 Arctic Policy Commission, highlights the critical importance of the Arctic to the future of the  
6 state; and

7           **WHEREAS** there is a need to strengthen international collaboration, promote  
8 economic and resource development, and continue to cultivate healthy communities and a  
9 healthy environment in the Arctic; and

10          **WHEREAS** the United States will chair the Arctic Council from April 2015 to  
11 May 2017; and

12          **WHEREAS** the state should anticipate increased national and international attention  
13 during this period;

14          **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature declares 2015, 2016, and 2017  
15 to be the Years of the Arctic, a period during which the state should make every effort to  
16 highlight the importance of the Arctic to residents of the state and nation; and be it

17          **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature encourages the state and  
18 its partners to join the Institute of the North, so that the state, together with national  
19 organizations, corporations, and other entities, can broaden awareness of Arctic issues; and be  
20 it

21          **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature encourages the state to  
22 promote its Arctic policy during the Years of the Arctic and to take action to address the  
23 strategic recommendations in the Arctic Policy and Implementation Plan of the Alaska Arctic  
24 Policy Commission.