

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 12

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE COMMUNITY AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Introduced: 4/29/22

Referred: Community and Regional Affairs

A RESOLUTION

1 **Urging the Marine Debris Foundation to locate its headquarters in the state.**

2 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:**

3 **WHEREAS** the state has 33,904 miles of shoreline and an estimated tidal shoreline of
4 47,300 miles, more than all the other 49 states combined; and

5 **WHEREAS** the state has a coastline that faces the North Pacific Ocean, the Bering
6 Sea, the Beaufort Sea, the Chukchi Sea, and the Arctic Ocean, and is the only state that
7 borders two different oceans; and

8 **WHEREAS** marine debris causes many adverse effects, including wildlife injury and
9 death from entanglement or ingestion, exposure to toxic chemicals, habitat destruction, vessel
10 damage, and economic loss to tourism and fisheries; and

11 **WHEREAS** the marine debris problem is inherently more extensive in the state than
12 in other parts of the United States, as a result of the state's rugged and remote coastline; and

13 **WHEREAS** the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Marine Debris
14 Program has worked with partners since 2006 to conduct debris research, removal, and
15 prevention, and has directly funded more than 35 projects in the state that have removed over
16 900 metric tons of debris; and

1 **WHEREAS** the pristine reputation of the state's fisheries, ocean, and coastline is
2 central to the state's economy, which contributes to Alaskans' unique understanding of the
3 threat of marine debris to environmental conservation, coastal communities, tourism, and
4 fisheries; and

5 **WHEREAS** the state is home to many organizations that have administered locally
6 driven marine debris assessment, removal, and prevention projects; and

7 **WHEREAS** the Marine Debris Foundation was authorized by the Save Our Seas 2.0
8 Act (P.L. 116-224) to act as a charitable and nonprofit organization overseeing marine debris
9 removal nationwide and globally in connection with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric
10 Administration under 33 U.S.C. 1952 (Marine Debris Act);

11 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the House of Representatives urges the Marine Debris
12 Foundation Board of Directors to locate the Marine Debris Foundation headquarters in the
13 state.