

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 27

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE LABOR AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE

Introduced: 4/11/24

Referred: Labor and Commerce, Resources

A RESOLUTION

1 **Supporting trade policies for the United States that hold China, Russia, and other**
2 **countries accountable, reward leadership in clean production standards, reward**
3 **superior environmental performance, support economic development, and support the**
4 **rebuilding of supply chains in the United States.**

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

6 **WHEREAS** China's dominance of key components of the global supply chain,
7 including the components related to critical minerals, represents a threat to the economic
8 security and economic and social development of the United States; and

9 **WHEREAS**, in terms of clean production standards, Alaska sets the bar for the
10 production of critical minerals, natural gas, crude oil, and other materials; and

11 **WHEREAS** the United States manufactures and produces domestic goods and
12 resources adhering to environmental standards that are some of the highest in the world and
13 far cleaner than many of the nation's global competitors; and

14 **WHEREAS** the nation's leadership in clean manufacturing and production practices
15 contributes to environmental preservation and sustainable economic growth, which

1 significantly benefit both Alaska and the United States; and

2 **WHEREAS** innovation in the private sector and American resources have resulted in
3 the United States' eliminating more carbon emissions than any other country in the last 15
4 years, and the economy of the United States is 44 percent more carbon-efficient than the
5 world average; and

6 **WHEREAS** the vast majority of critical and strategic minerals in Alaska are sent to
7 China for refining, which requires the United States to purchase those minerals back to
8 employ environmentally protective technology; and

9 **WHEREAS** China is the greatest immediate obstacle to reducing world emissions
10 because China accounts for one-third of global greenhouse gas emissions, an amount more
11 than the rest of the developed world combined; and

12 **WHEREAS** China and Russia subsidize exports by not imposing or enforcing
13 environmental and labor standards comparable to the standards in other developed countries;
14 and

15 **WHEREAS** United States companies are more efficient in most industries and yet are
16 forced to compete with subsidized imports from China and other countries that do not face
17 pollution limits; and

18 **WHEREAS** goods produced in China and Russia generate 300 and 400 percent on
19 average, respectively, more in carbon emissions compared to equivalent goods produced in
20 the United States; and

21 **WHEREAS** the United States invests in cleaner, more efficient manufacturing
22 practices than other countries, and China and other countries must be held accountable for
23 emissions-heavy production of steel and other goods; and

24 **WHEREAS** United States trade policies do not account for high carbon emissions
25 associated with foreign competitors and allow foreign polluters to take advantage of the
26 global market, despite a domestic carbon advantage; and

27 **WHEREAS** United States trade policies should level the playing field and ensure
28 workers and producers are not unjustly penalized for high environmental standards; and

29 **WHEREAS** rewarding United States companies for the companies' environmental
30 performance would bolster Alaska's resource industries, generate well-paying jobs, and
31 reduce dependence on imports from China, Russia, and other countries; and

1 **WHEREAS** developing and mining minerals domestically would lead to more
2 opportunities for health care, education, and jobs for rural residents of Alaska and would help
3 build communities in which children and families can thrive; and

4 **WHEREAS** American manufacturing and production are recognized globally for
5 committing to environmental stewardship and adherence to stringent production standards;

6 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature supports United States trade
7 policies that hold China, Russia, and other countries accountable and reward Alaska's
8 leadership in clean production standards; and be it

9 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature supports the adoption of
10 policies that reward United States businesses and workers for superior environmental
11 performance and support economic development and the rebuilding of supply chains in the
12 United States.

13 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the
14 Honorable Dan Sullivan, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Mary Peltola, U.S. Representative,
15 members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.