

CS FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 11(RES) am

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE HOUSE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Amended: 3/24/25

Offered: 3/17/25

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES KOPP, Saddler, Story, Dibert, Fields, Holland, Gray, Eischeid, Burke, Hall, Bynum, Mina, Schwanke, Hannan, Josephson, Himschoot, Galvin, Stutes, Schrage

SENATORS Dunbar, Tobin, Giessel, Kiehl, Gray-Jackson, Claman, Stedman, Olson, Stevens

A RESOLUTION

1 **Recognizing and honoring the relationship between Canada and Alaska.**

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

3 **WHEREAS** Canada and the United States share the world's longest international
4 border, spanning 5,511 miles, with Alaska and Canada sharing 1,538 miles of that border,
5 which serves as a vital corridor for trade, travel, and cross-border cooperation; and

6 **WHEREAS** Canada is Alaska's only neighbor, reinforcing a unique and deeply
7 interconnected relationship built on geography, history, and mutual economic and cultural
8 ties; and

9 **WHEREAS** both Canada and Alaska are blessed with extraordinary natural
10 environments, valuable natural resources, and shared cultures that stretch back millennia; and

11 **WHEREAS** Canada and Alaska have worked together to create jobs through
12 integrated economies, to protect our shared environment, airspace, and border, and to defend
13 North America from threats; and

14 **WHEREAS** the citizens of Canada and the citizens of Alaska have developed deep
15 friendships, family ties, and collaborative relationships over the course of history; and

16 **WHEREAS** Alaska and Canada have long supported international sporting and

1 cultural exchanges, which promote youth development, athletic excellence, and cross-cultural
2 understanding between the northern communities of the United States and Canada; and

3 **WHEREAS** the United States and Canada have developed one of the most successful
4 international relationships in the modern world, sharing a vibrant history of democratic
5 governance, military and economic partnerships, and cultural ties; and

6 **WHEREAS** the United States and Canada have been close allies, serving on
7 battlefields alongside one another in World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Gulf
8 War, the Kosovo War, and the War on Terror, including the Global Coalition against Daesh;
9 and

10 **WHEREAS** the United States and Canada have been partners in the Permanent Joint
11 Board on Defense since 1940, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization since 1949, and the
12 North American Aerospace Defense Command since 1958, with Alaska's North American
13 Aerospace Defense Command region proudly commanded out of Joint Base Elmendorf-
14 Richardson by an American Commander and a Canadian Deputy Commander; and

15 **WHEREAS** Canada has provided aid to the United States in times of need, including
16 the Iran hostage crisis, the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center,
17 Hurricane Katrina, wildfires in Alaska and across the United States, and other disasters; and

18 **WHEREAS** Alaska recognizes the importance of a strong and sovereign nation of
19 Canada and firmly supports Canada's right to self-determination, national security, and
20 economic independence; and

21 **WHEREAS** Canada and Alaska strive to advance the goal of sustaining healthy and
22 resilient Arctic and northern peoples and communities by strengthening economic, cultural,
23 and family connections across the region and by recognizing the historical trade and relations
24 of tribes on both sides of today's border; and

25 **WHEREAS** the vast, glaciated Taku, Stikine, Unuk, Salmon, and other transboundary
26 rivers that flow from the boreal forest of British Columbia into Southeast Alaska have been
27 centers of culture and commerce for thousands of years for people on both sides of the Alaska
28 and Canada border, and the State of Alaska, the Province of British Columbia, the United
29 States, Canada, Indigenous governments, and communities have the opportunity to work
30 together to steward shared resources, while also ensuring commitments outlined in current
31 agreements are upheld; and

1 **WHEREAS** both Canada and the United States benefit from the efficient and secure
2 movement of people and goods between countries, including as partners in vibrant regional
3 cruise industries, fishing industries, resource extraction industries, agricultural industries,
4 energy industries, and medical industries; and

5 **WHEREAS** the United States is Canada's premier partner in the Arctic, and
6 cooperation between Canada and Alaska is longstanding, including on economic
7 opportunities, health, education, energy, security, environmental protection, infrastructure,
8 and public safety issues; and

9 **WHEREAS** Alaska annually exports \$596,000,000 in goods to Canada, including
10 \$438,000,000 in ore and fuel oil; and

11 **WHEREAS** Alaska annually imports \$753,000,000 from Canada, including
12 \$370,000,000 in ore and fuel oil; and

13 **WHEREAS** the United States and Canada have the largest and most comprehensive
14 and balanced trade relationship in the world, totaling \$1,000,000,000,000 annually,
15 representing 13.3 percent of total United States trade, with \$2,500,000,000 worth of goods
16 and services crossing the United States and Canada border every day; and

17 **WHEREAS** the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement negotiated in 2018
18 provides the framework for much of this bilateral trade, has provided important updates to the
19 North American Free Trade Agreement, and continues to grow both economies; and

20 **WHEREAS** more than 20,300 jobs in Alaska rely on trade and investment with
21 Canada, and more than 47 Canadian-owned companies operate in Alaska and employ 4,350
22 residents throughout the state; and

23 **WHEREAS** Canada and Alaska share diverse transportation links by road and by sea,
24 including the Alaska-Canada Highway, constructed during World War II to benefit our shared
25 defense, the Alaska Marine Highway system, which runs from Bellingham, Washington to
26 Alaska through Canadian water and has a terminal at Prince Rupert, and the uniquely
27 interdependent communities of Stewart, British Columbia, and Hyder, Alaska; and

28 **WHEREAS** the Alaska-Canada Highway and other vital road connections serve as
29 critical lifelines for the movement of goods, people, and services between Alaska and the rest
30 of the United States through Canadian territory, fostering economic stability and security for
31 both regions; and

1 **WHEREAS** the Alaska State Legislature is deeply concerned by any threats or
2 actions by Canada to shut down roads into Alaska, including the Alaska-Canada Highway,
3 which would disrupt this essential connectivity and undermine the spirit of cooperation
4 enshrined in our shared history and agreements; and

5 **WHEREAS** such actions could jeopardize funding commitments, including those for
6 the repair and maintenance of the Shakwak road, a project vital to the safety and economic
7 well-being of Alaskans and Canadians alike, as well as threaten the broader framework of
8 Canada-Alaska agreements that support trade, infrastructure, and mutual prosperity; and

9 **WHEREAS** maintaining open and reliable transportation links is fundamental to
10 honoring the economic, cultural, and strategic partnership between Alaska and Canada, as
11 reinforced by the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement and decades of collaboration; and

12 **WHEREAS** the imposition of recent proposed tariffs could threaten this unique,
13 mutually beneficial relationship and could harm the economies of both Alaska and Canada,
14 jeopardizing jobs, businesses, and longstanding partnerships;

15 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature recognizes the vibrancy and
16 importance of the Alaska-Canada relationship as the world increasingly recognizes the
17 strategic, economic, environmental, and cultural importance of the Arctic; and be it

18 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature believes that Canada and
19 Alaska must continue to work together to make our citizens' lives better, safer, more
20 prosperous, and more affordable; and be it

21 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature recognizes the economic
22 and trade relationships between our nation and Canada and Alaska and Canada; and be it

23 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature opposes restrictive trade
24 measures or tolls that would harm the unique relationship between Canada and Alaska or
25 negatively affect our integrated economies; and be it

26 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature honors Alaska's alliance
27 with Canada and looks forward to many more years of cooperation, friendship, trade, tourism,
28 cultural exchange, and good will.

29 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Donald J. Trump, President
30 of the United States; the Right Honourable Mark Carney, Prime Minister of Canada; the
31 Honourable Mélanie Joly, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Canada; the Honourable Mary Ng,

1 Minister of Export Promotion, International Trade and Economic Development, of Canada;
2 the Honourable Bill Blair, Minister of National Defence of Canada; the Honorable Marco
3 Rubio, United States Secretary of State; the Honorable Pete Hegseth, United States Secretary
4 of Defense; General Gregory M. Guillot, Commander, North American Aerospace Defense
5 Command and United States Northern Command; Lieutenant General Blaise F. Frawley,
6 Deputy Commander, North American Aerospace Defense Command; Craig Weichel, Consul
7 General of Canada in Seattle, Washington; and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the
8 Honorable Dan Sullivan, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Nicholas Begich, U.S.
9 Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.