

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

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE HOUSE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Amended: 4/30/25

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 longstanding participation of Canadian teams in the Fairbanks
4 Curling Club's International Bonspiel, now in its 88th year, exemplifies the deep cultural ties
5 and shared northern identity between Alaska and Canada, highlighting a mutual love of
6 curling as both a beloved sport and a form of diplomacy that fosters goodwill, cross-border
7 friendship, and enduring cooperation through spirited, respectful competition; and

8 **WHEREAS** the Gwich'in people, indigenous to Interior Alaska and northwestern
9 Canada, have lived in the region for over 20,000 years, with vibrant communities in both the
10 Fairbanks area and across the border in the Yukon and Northwest Territories, maintaining
11 deep familial, cultural, and linguistic ties that continue to shape and enrich the cross-border
12 relationship between Alaska and Canada; and

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

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

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

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

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

31 **WHEREAS** Canada and Alaska strive to advance the goal of sustaining healthy and

1 resilient Arctic and northern peoples and communities by strengthening economic, cultural,
2 and family connections across the region and by recognizing the historical trade and relations
3 of tribes on both sides of today's border; and

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

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

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

19 **WHEREAS** Alaska annually exports \$596,000,000 in goods to Canada, including
20 \$438,000,000 in ore and fuel oil; and

21 **WHEREAS** Alaska annually imports \$753,000,000 from Canada, including
22 \$370,000,000 in ore and fuel oil; and

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

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

30 **WHEREAS** more than 20,300 jobs in Alaska rely on trade and investment with
31 Canada, and more than 47 Canadian-owned companies operate in Alaska and employ 4,350

1 residents throughout the state; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

31 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature recognizes the economic

1 and trade relationships between our nation and Canada and Alaska and Canada; and be it

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

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

8 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Donald J. Trump, President
9 of the United States; the Right Honourable Mark Carney, Prime Minister of Canada; the
10 Honourable Mélanie Joly, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Canada; the Honourable Mary Ng,
11 Minister of Export Promotion, International Trade and Economic Development, of Canada;
12 the Honourable Bill Blair, Minister of National Defence of Canada; the Honorable Marco
13 Rubio, United States Secretary of State; the Honorable Pete Hegseth, United States Secretary
14 of Defense; General Gregory M. Guillot, Commander, North American Aerospace Defense
15 Command and United States Northern Command; Lieutenant General Blaise F. Frawley,
16 Deputy Commander, North American Aerospace Defense Command; Craig Weichel, Consul
17 General of Canada in Seattle, Washington; and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the
18 Honorable Dan Sullivan, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Nicholas Begich, U.S.
19 Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.