

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 40

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVE SCHWANKE

Introduced: 2/23/26

Referred: Resources, Finance

A RESOLUTION

1 **Supporting the Alaska Statewide Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy 2022**
2 **- 2027; supporting public and private sector investment, economic opportunities, and**
3 **development in the state; supporting the prioritization of healthy and sustainable wild**
4 **food and renewable resources; encouraging the private and public sectors to collaborate**
5 **on educating students about the state's economic reliance on sustainable resource**
6 **development; and supporting payment of an annual dividend.**

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

8 **WHEREAS** the state contains 665,384 square miles of unparalleled resource-rich land
9 and water, which are essential for economic prosperity, Arctic transportation, and national
10 security for the United States and the state; and

11 **WHEREAS** the state features scenic corridors, offers shoreline hydroelectric
12 opportunities, and contains world-class reserves of precious metals, critical minerals, oil, gas,
13 coal, wildlife, fish, forests, and rich soils; and

14 **WHEREAS** the state is an established leader in natural resource development,

1 providing a geopolitically safe and stable jurisdiction in which to invest for the long term; and

2 **WHEREAS** President Donald J. Trump's January 20, 2025, executive order,
3 "Unleashing Alaska's Extraordinary Resource Potential," confirmed a robust policy of the
4 United States to fully support the state's pursuit of natural resource development for the
5 benefit of the United States and the state; and

6 **WHEREAS** artificial intelligence is rapidly transforming the global landscape by
7 improving technological efficiencies, the state is uniquely positioned to capitalize on
8 supplying necessary materials and components, as well as harnessing existing low-cost
9 hydroelectric energy in the state, for data centers and manufacturing; and

10 **WHEREAS** now is the time to expand the state's natural resource project portfolio
11 following the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the state and the Federal
12 Permitting Improvement Steering Council under Title 41 of the Fixing America's Surface
13 Transportation Act, which sets out an intention to streamline permitting efforts; and

14 **WHEREAS** the Alaska Liquefied Natural Gas project has advanced significantly over
15 the past year under the leadership of private developer Glenfarne Group, with mechanical
16 completion of the pipeline targeted for 2028 and first in-state gas delivery anticipated in 2029,
17 the state is positioned to gain thousands of new jobs, benefit from consistent and affordable
18 energy, and bring in stable revenue for state and local governments for decades to come; and

19 **WHEREAS** the state's rich and diverse resources are attracting attention from new
20 industry partners seeking to increase domestic capacity in agriculture, mariculture, and
21 timber; and

22 **WHEREAS** the Alaska permanent fund, established as a long-term revenue-
23 producing asset for the benefit of current and future generations, grows continually through
24 annual contributions from mineral lease rentals, royalties, royalty sale proceeds, net profit
25 shares, federal mineral revenue sharing payments, and royalties from carbon storage projects,
26 thereby strengthening and securing generational wealth for residents of the state as new
27 resource development expands the fund's principal and enhances its enduring economic
28 impact; and

29 **WHEREAS** revenue sharing under secs. 7(i) and 7(j) of the Alaska Native Claims
30 Settlement Act benefits all Alaska Native regional corporations, Alaska Village corporations,
31 and Alaska Native shareholders, with well over \$3,000,000,000 shared to date, directly

1 linking all Alaska Native shareholders to successful, responsible, and accountable long-term
2 resource development; and

3 **WHEREAS** the path to prosperity and self-sufficiency for families in the state is
4 through new job creation from investment in and expansion of existing resource development
5 operations in the private sector; and

6 **WHEREAS** the most effective path to addressing the state's substantial infrastructure
7 maintenance backlog lies in strengthening the state's fiscal position through policies that
8 encourage private sector investment, economic growth, and mutually beneficial public-private
9 partnerships; and

10 **WHEREAS** the most effective and sustainable path to well-capitalized core public
11 and nonprofit operations is through a vibrant and well-diversified private sector, allowing
12 residents to give back to the state; and

13 **WHEREAS** residents of the state deeply value the state's wild and scenic natural
14 resources and remain committed to working together to ensure environmentally responsible
15 resource development; and

16 **WHEREAS** the state's youth deserve a future in which they can thrive, readily find
17 meaningful employment, find higher service and pathways to entrepreneurship, feel confident
18 starting families, and afford energy, health care, and housing;

19 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature appreciates the incredible depth
20 and foresight of the "Alaska Statewide Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy 2022
21 - 2027" produced by the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development
22 and urges continued attention to the mission to inspire, invest, and collaborate, ensuring that
23 all state residents are able to play an active role in creating a stronger, more resilient state; and
24 be it

25 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature encourages the state's
26 executive branch to prioritize swift permitting, licensing, and leasing efforts, along with
27 targeted and necessary reallocation of appropriations toward the fields of geology and biology
28 to support these efforts, allowing committed, hard-working residents to put their talents,
29 skills, and capital to work growing the state's economy; and be it

30 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature supports accelerated
31 development and marketing of the state's significant deposits of critical minerals and metals,

1 including gallium and germanium associated with zinc-copper ores, rare earth elements like
2 neodymium and dysprosium, high-grade graphite, platinum-group elements including
3 palladium, precious metals including silver and gold, critical metals including copper, cobalt,
4 nickel, and antimony, and emerging lithium resources, among others, to support the rapidly
5 growing demand by the artificial intelligence sector for semiconductors, batteries, and data
6 center components, to bolster national security, and to create an unparalleled opportunity for
7 securing long-term economic growth, job opportunities, and revenue for the state; and be it

8 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature strongly encourages
9 continued and accelerated mineral exploration throughout the state, building on recent
10 geologic mapping, geophysical surveys, and critical mineral assessments advanced through
11 the United States Geological Survey's Earth Mapping Resources Initiative under the
12 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, as well as targeted investments and priorities as
13 established by the Defense Production Act to secure domestic supplies of critical minerals
14 essential for national security, economic growth, and emerging technologies; and be it

15 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature reaffirms support for the
16 Alaska liquefied natural gas project and Glenfarne Group, including its partnership with
17 engineering firm Worley, engaging as needed to ensure the best long-term outcome for
18 residents of the state; and be it

19 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature recognizes the unique
20 energy demands across the state; supports a robust energy strategy that is tailored to local
21 needs, resource availability, and community and grid resilience; and supports a range of
22 economic opportunities from grants to industrial partnerships; and be it

23 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature encourages continued
24 forward-looking efforts to offer regular oil and gas lease sales, approve new mining licenses,
25 and strategically adopt development incentives in a manner consistent with the state's reliance
26 on wild fish and game resources; and be it

27 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature supports the initiatives
28 outlined in President Donald J. Trump's February 13, 2026, policy titled "America's Maritime
29 Action Plan," including investment in domestic ship building, modernization of port
30 infrastructure, and development of Arctic waterways and the state's workforce to assist in
31 these endeavors; and be it

1 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature is acutely aware of the
2 state's food security issues, given the complexity of maintaining sustainable wild food
3 supplies, and is committed to active engagement in and management of the state's wild
4 resources for the benefit of all residents, rural and urban; and be it

5 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the state's executive
6 branch to actively expand lease opportunities to support development of agriculture,
7 mariculture, timber, and tourism enterprises by motivated residents and businesses, which will
8 further diversify and strengthen the depth and resilience of the state's economy; and be it

9 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature reaffirms its longstanding
10 support for the state's commercial fishermen and dedicated permit holders and remains firmly
11 committed to working collaboratively to identify fair, timely, and effective solutions,
12 including compensation, mitigation, or other relief measures, for those affected by unexpected
13 conservation-based closures necessary to ensure long-term sustainability of our vital fishery
14 resources; and be it

15 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature supports targeted
16 investment in transportation, grid, utility, telecommunications, and housing infrastructure at
17 every level of government, when and where practicable, specifically to support new revenue-
18 generating investment in the state; and be it

19 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature encourages the state's
20 public and private sector to collaborate to include meaningful opportunities for school
21 children to learn about the state's economic reliance on sustainable resource development and
22 to offer direct pathways for the state's youth to find gainful employment in their home state;
23 and be it

24 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature reaffirms its commitment
25 to strengthening the state's economic potential by preserving a pro-growth regulatory
26 environment that attracts new private investment, improving educational outcomes to prepare
27 a skilled workforce, putting more state residents to work in meaningful careers, and
28 responsibly prioritizing state spending to maximize long-term benefits for current and future
29 generations; and be it

30 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature will work diligently to
31 rebuild the state's capacity to address the major maintenance backlog across the state for the

1 benefit of the state's students, employees, and residents, as well as the visiting public; and be
2 it

3 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature recognizes the gravity of
4 the potential revenue cliff facing Alaska Native shareholders if revenue from secs. 7(i) and (j)
5 of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act declines abruptly and encourages collaborative
6 efforts by the state, federal government, tribal organizations, and Alaska Native corporations
7 to attract new investments and long-term commitments in the state's collective resource
8 development portfolio; and be it

9 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature reaffirms its support for
10 the payment of a meaningful annual dividend to all state residents, representing ownership in
11 the state's resources and ensuring continued advocacy for responsible sustainable
12 development.

13 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Donald J. Trump, President
14 of the United States; the Honorable Pete Hegseth, United States Secretary of Defense; the
15 Honorable Douglas Burgum, United States Secretary of the Interior; the Honorable Chris
16 Wright, United States Secretary of Energy; and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the
17 Honorable Dan Sullivan, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Nicholas Begich, U.S.
18 Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.