

Introduced: 2/18/80  
Referred: Health, Educa-  
tion & Social Services

1 IN THE SENATE

BY RODEY

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SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 45

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

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ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5

Relating to research and support

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activities by the Arctic Research

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Laboratory at Barrow.

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

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WHEREAS, since 1947, the Naval Arctic Research Laboratory at Barrow has

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been the nation's leading facility for scientific research and support of

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activities for examining the resources of the Arctic; and

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WHEREAS for 33 years expenses of operating the laboratory have been

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underwritten by the United States Navy, with management of the facility

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handled under contract with the University of Alaska and a number of private

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contractors; and

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WHEREAS the United States Navy has announced that it is prepared to

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reduce its responsibilities for the laboratory to caretaker status, elimi-

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nating research and research support activities as early as this autumn; and

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WHEREAS the Navy has indicated that it will close the facility at the

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end of 1982 if no other party has agreed to accept responsibility for its

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operation before that date; and

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WHEREAS an active center of research and support for activities in the

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Arctic should not be reduced to caretaker status and threatened with closure

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just as Alaska's Arctic Slope is scheduled to play an increasingly signifi-

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cant role in meeting national energy and mineral supply demands; and

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WHEREAS the future of Alaska and the Arctic are closely intertwined in

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that projected state revenues through at least the next two decades will

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depend on the development and sale of resources from the North Slope and the

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coastal waters of the Arctic Ocean; and

1       WHEREAS exploration, extraction and transportation of energy and mineral  
2 resources from the Arctic should occur only with sound understanding of the  
3 potential effects of these activities on the Arctic environment;

4       BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the Alaska Council  
5 on Science and Technology is requested to review and report to the First  
6 Session of the Twelfth Legislature its recommendations with reference to  
7 state assistance in management or direct state operations of the Arctic  
8 Research Laboratory, including but not limited to,

9               (1) a statement of the purpose and functions of operation of the  
10 laboratory with state support or under state management;

11              (2) annual operating costs estimated through the balance of this  
12 decade;

13              (3) cooperative management, with federal agencies, the University  
14 of Alaska, the North Slope Borough, the City of Barrow, or the Arctic Slope  
16 Regional Corporation; and

17              (4) contracted management, using the services of one or more  
18 parties interested in and capable of accepting responsibility for operation  
of the facility; and be it

19       FURTHER RESOLVED that the recommendations of the council be reported to  
20 the legislature not later than January 15, 1981.

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