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1 IN THE HOUSE

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 4

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5

Relating to a nuclear-free zone in the

6

arctic, the subarctic, and Alaska.

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

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WHEREAS the main purpose of establishing nuclear-free zones, as of all  
9 rational security policies, is to prevent nuclear war; and

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WHEREAS an emphatic expression of feeling by citizens and their local  
11 and state governments can help initiate steps by the United States and  
12 other nuclear powers towards world peace and away from the brink of nuclear  
13 war; and

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WHEREAS over the past four years more than 3,000 cities and counties  
15 in 17 nations have adopted resolutions establishing nuclear-free zones; and

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WHEREAS 42 of the 50 states in the United States have proposals for  
17 nuclear-free zones introduced or approved at state or local levels; and

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WHEREAS there are five treaties in existence with as many as 83 signa-  
19 tories (including the U.S. and U.S.S.R.) pertaining to nuclear-free zones  
20 in the Antarctic, outer space, Latin America, the South Pacific, and on the  
21 ocean floor; and

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WHEREAS nuclear weapons are themselves nuclear targets, and to remove  
23 the targets will reduce the risk of destruction to the territory in which  
24 they were located in case of nuclear war; and

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WHEREAS Alaskan voters have expressed their strong support for an end  
26 to the nuclear arms race, voting in August 1986 for a nuclear freeze; and

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WHEREAS the Chernobyl nuclear power plant disaster in the Soviet Union  
28 has resulted in the spread of nuclear poison to neighboring territories,  
29 including arctic regions of Scandinavia; and

1       WHEREAS the environmental devastation of these regions has seriously  
2 jeopardized the health and lifestyle of the Saami people; and

3       WHEREAS the radioactive contamination of the region above the Arctic  
4 Circle from the previous use and testing of nuclear weapons has caused the  
5 permanent inhabitants of the arctic region to carry body-burdens of long-  
6 lived, biologically dangerous radionuclides in amounts in excess of all the  
7 world's people except for the atomic bomb victims in Hiroshima and Nagasaki  
8 during August 1945; and

9       WHEREAS any further deposition of nuclear materials in the food-chain  
10 of the arctic and subarctic regions will result in biologically unaccept-  
11 able radiation standards for people and ecosystems; and

12       WHEREAS the storage or transportation of high level radioactive nu-  
13 clear wastes in Alaska could pose serious health, safety, and environmental  
14 risks to the state's residents; and

15       WHEREAS the Inuit Circumpolar Conference and the legislative bodies of  
16 Yukon and Greenland have unanimously approved resolutions that call for  
17 restricting the arctic region to uses that are peaceful and environmentally  
18 safe, and prohibiting the deployment and testing of nuclear weapons in this  
19 area; and

20       WHEREAS a ban on nuclear weapons testing, the deployment of most  
21 nuclear weapons delivery systems, and the production of fissile materials  
22 can be verified with high confidence by a worldwide network of seismic  
23 monitors, satellites, and other verification technology; and

24       WHEREAS the people of Alaska desire to continue to live in freedom in  
25 a world that is at peace and safe from nuclear pollution;

26       BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the Governor and  
27 Alaska congressional delegation are requested to promote and initiate  
28 efforts to

29             (1) encourage verifiable bilateral and multilateral agreements

1 and treaties between nations establishing the arctic and subarctic regions,  
2 and the entire State of Alaska, as a nuclear-free zone;

3 (2) obtain verifiable bilateral and multilateral agreements and  
4 treaties to ban from the arctic and subarctic regions, and the entire State  
5 of Alaska, all items designed primarily for the delivery of nuclear weapons  
6 to their targets;

7 (3) prevent all parties, including the military, from disposing  
8 of radioactive and nuclear wastes and materials in the arctic and subarctic  
9 regions, and the entire State of Alaska; and

10 (4) obtain mutual and verifiable agreements and treaties to  
11 prevent nuclear weapons testing or the placement of nuclear devices in the  
12 arctic and subarctic regions, and the entire State of Alaska; and be it

13 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature does not seek to  
14 limit the use of nuclear technology for medical treatment or other safe and  
15 benign purposes.

16 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Ted Stevens  
17 and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don  
18 Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.