

Original sponsors: Koponen, Ellis,
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1 IN THE HOUSE BY THE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
2 CS FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 4 (State Affairs)
3 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.

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

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

10 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

14 WHEREAS over the past four years more than 3,500 cities and counties
15 in 24 nations have adopted resolutions establishing nuclear-free zones; and

16 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

18 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

22 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

25 WHEREAS Alaskan voters have expressed their strong support for an end
26 to the nuclear arms race, voting in August 1986 for Proposition 83-01
27 establishing a nuclear weapons freeze as the policy of the State of Alaska;
28 and

29 WHEREAS the Chernobyl nuclear power plant disaster in the Soviet Union

1 has resulted in the spread of nuclear poison to neighboring territories,
2 including arctic regions of Scandinavia; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 efforts to

2 (1) encourage verifiable bilateral and multilateral agreements
3 and treaties between nations establishing the arctic and subarctic regions,
4 and the entire State of Alaska, as a nuclear-free zone;

5 (2) obtain verifiable bilateral and multilateral agreements and
6 treaties to ban nuclear weapons from the arctic and subarctic regions, and
7 the entire State of Alaska;

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

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

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

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