

Original sponsors: Koponen, Ellis,
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1 IN THE HOUSE BY THE RULES COMMITTEE
2 CS FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 4 (Rules)
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 calling for the establishment of
16 nuclear-free zones; and
17 WHEREAS 42 of the 50 states in the United States have proposals for
18 nuclear-free zones introduced or approved at state or local levels; and
19 WHEREAS there are five treaties in existence with as many as 83 signa-
20 tories (including the U.S. and the Soviet Union) pertaining to nuclear-free
21 zones in the Antarctic, outer space, Latin America, the South Pacific, and
22 on the ocean floor; and
23 WHEREAS nuclear weapons are themselves nuclear targets, and to remove
24 the targets will reduce the risk of destruction to the territory in which
25 they were located in case of nuclear war; and
26 WHEREAS 58.4 percent of Alaskan voters in the August 1986 election
27 expressed their strong support for Ballot Measure No. 1, which declared as
28 the policy of the state the promotion of a mutual and verifiable nuclear
29 freeze to be followed by a reduction in nuclear warheads, missiles, and

1 other delivery systems in order to halt the nuclear arms race and reduce
2 the risk of nuclear war; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

29 WHEREAS the people of Alaska desire to continue to live in freedom in

1 a world that is at peace and safe from nuclear pollution; and

2 WHEREAS current efforts by the Reagan administration have encouraged a
3 spirit of international cooperation and helped establish an atmosphere in
4 which meaningful arms control treaties may result from the Geneva arms
5 reduction talks and which may enhance prospects for negotiating a multi-
6 lateral and verifiable nuclear-free arctic treaty;

7 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the Governor and
8 Alaska congressional delegation are requested to promote and initiate
9 efforts to

10 (1) encourage verifiable bilateral and multilateral agreements
11 and treaties between the United States, the Soviet Union, and other nations
12 establishing the arctic and subarctic regions, and the entire State of
13 Alaska, as a nuclear-free zone;

14 (2) obtain verifiable bilateral and multilateral agreements and
15 treaties between the United States, the Soviet Union, and other nations to
16 ban nuclear weapons from the arctic and subarctic regions, and the entire
17 State of Alaska;

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

21 (4) obtain verifiable bilateral and multilateral agreements and
22 treaties between the United States, the Soviet Union, and other nations to
23 prevent nuclear weapons testing or the placement of nuclear devices in the
24 arctic and subarctic regions, and the entire State of Alaska; and be it

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

28 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Ronald
29 Reagan, President of the United States; the Honorable George P. Shultz,

1 U.S. Secretary of State; to the Honorable Max Kampelman, Head of Delegation
2 and Negotiator; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank
3 Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative,
4 members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.