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1 IN THE HOUSE BY THE RULES COMMITTEE  
2 CS FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 4 (Rules) am  
3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA  
4 FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION  
5 Relating to a nuclear weapons-free zone  
6 in the arctic, the subarctic, and the  
7 world.  
8 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:  
9 WHEREAS the main purpose of establishing nuclear weapons-free zones,  
10 as of all rational security policies, is to prevent nuclear war; and  
11 WHEREAS an emphatic expression of feeling by citizens and their local  
12 and state governments can help initiate steps by the United States and  
13 other nuclear powers towards world peace and away from the brink of nuclear  
14 war; and  
15 WHEREAS over the past four years more than 3,500 cities and counties  
16 in 24 nations have adopted resolutions calling for the establishment of  
17 nuclear-free zones; and  
18 WHEREAS 42 of the 50 states in the United States have proposals for  
19 nuclear-free zones introduced or approved at state or local levels; and  
20 WHEREAS there are five treaties in existence with as many as 83 signa-  
21 tories (including the U.S. and the Soviet Union) pertaining to nuclear-free  
22 zones in the Antarctic, outer space, Latin America, the South Pacific, and  
23 on the ocean floor; and  
24 WHEREAS nuclear weapons are themselves nuclear targets, and to remove  
25 the targets will reduce the risk of destruction to the territory in which  
26 they were located in case of nuclear war; and  
27 WHEREAS 58.4 percent of Alaska voters in the August 1986 election  
28 expressed their strong support for Ballot Measure No. 1, which declared as  
29 the policy of the state the promotion of a mutual and verifiable nuclear

1 weapons freeze to be followed by a reduction in nuclear warheads, missiles,  
2 and other delivery systems in order to halt the nuclear arms race and  
3 reduce the risk of nuclear war; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

8           WHEREAS the ratification of a multi-lateral and verifiable  
9 nuclear-free arctic and subarctic treaty represents a creative and meaning-  
10 ful first step towards establishing a nuclear-weapons free world, which is  
11 the ultimate intent of this resolution;

12          BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the Governor and  
13 Alaska congressional delegation are requested to promote and initiate  
14 efforts to

15                 (1) encourage verifiable bilateral and multilateral agreements  
16 and treaties between the United States, the Soviet Union, and other nations  
17 establishing the arctic and subarctic regions, and the entire world, as a  
18 nuclear weapons-free zone;

19                 (2) obtain verifiable bilateral and multilateral agreements and  
20 treaties between the United States, the Soviet Union, and other nations to  
21 ban nuclear weapons from the arctic and subarctic regions, and the entire  
22 world;

23                 (3) prevent all parties, including the military, from disposing  
24 of radioactive and nuclear wastes and materials in the arctic and subarctic  
25 regions;

26                 (4) obtain verifiable bilateral and multilateral agreements and  
27 treaties between the United States, the Soviet Union, and other nations to  
28 prevent nuclear weapons testing or the placement of nuclear weapons-related  
29 devices in the arctic and subarctic regions, and the entire world; and

1           (5) promote and encourage the location of the next USA/USSR  
2 summit conference to be in Alaska so that world attention and concern might  
3 be drawn to the environmental concerns of arctic and subarctic areas; and  
4 be it

5           FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature does not seek to  
6 limit the use of nuclear technology for medical treatment or other safe and  
7 benign purposes; and be it

8           FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature does not seek to  
9 discourage or prohibit United States Navy nuclear-powered vessels from  
10 entering Alaska waters or visiting Alaska ports.

11          COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Ronald  
12 Reagan, President of the United States; the Honorable Mikhail Gorbachev,  
13 General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union; the Honorable  
14 George P. Shultz, U.S. Secretary of State; to the Honorable Max Kampelman,  
15 Head of Delegation and Negotiator; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the  
16 Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S.  
17 Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.