

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY SPRINGER, KOPONEN AND
BROWN

2

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 31

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

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FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5

Relating to a Siberian crossing and

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cultural exchange.

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

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WHEREAS President Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachev, recognizing

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the desires of the citizens of their countries, signed an agreement in 1986

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encouraging people-to-people exchanges between the United States and the

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Soviet Union; and

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WHEREAS the Alaska Performing Artists for Peace brought this agreement

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to life by visiting the Soviet Union last year; and

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WHEREAS the people of Alaska and the Soviet Union have a shared

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history; and

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WHEREAS some of the inhabitants of the Alaska and Soviet Union coastal

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communities on the Bering Strait have family and cultural ties; and

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WHEREAS the people of St. Lawrence Island in Alaska have extended an

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invitation to the people in Siberia to participate in an Alaska whaling

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festival this summer; and

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WHEREAS other Alaska communities are planning activities to welcome

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the people from Siberia and would like to include the Siberian visitors in

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the World Eskimo-Indian Olympics in August; and

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WHEREAS, if Siberian residents are allowed to visit Alaska, the visit

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will be the first Siberian crossing for the residents in almost 40 years;

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and

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WHEREAS the proposed exchange would promote international understand-

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ing and world peace;

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BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature supports a Siberian

1 crossing and cultural exchange in Alaska for Alaskan and Siberian residents
2 this summer; and be it

3 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully en-
4 courages the President of the United States to support and assist this
5 proposed Siberian crossing and exchange; and be it

6 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully urges
7 the members of the state's Congressional delegation to support this pro-
8 posed Siberian crossing and cultural exchange.

9 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Ronald
10 Reagan, President of the United States; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens
11 and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don
12 Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.