

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY THE LABOR AND  
COMMERCE COMMITTEE

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 71

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

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FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5

Relating to bidding on publicly funded

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construction projects in the United

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States and other nations.

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

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WHEREAS existing law provides for the establishment, operation, and  
10 maintenance of foreign trade zones at the ports of entry into the United  
11 States to expedite and encourage foreign commerce and for other purposes;  
12 and

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WHEREAS United States law and practice generally enable resident  
14 aliens and foreign companies to become licensed contractors in the United  
15 States and to enter into competitive bidding on publicly funded construc-  
16 tion projects; and

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WHEREAS United States construction companies are systematically pre-  
18 cluded by the licensing, corporate, and other laws and practices of some  
19 foreign nations from successfully competing for work in those nations,  
20 while the citizens of those nations actively engage in the construction of  
21 publicly funded projects in the United States; and

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WHEREAS the governments in many of these countries actively subsidize  
23 and assist their citizens and construction companies in a manner that is  
24 prohibited by the laws of the United States; and

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WHEREAS this subsidy and assistance gives foreign contractors an  
26 unfair competitive advantage over United States contractors when bidding  
27 for publicly funded construction projects in the United States; and

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WHEREAS the United States Congress is currently considering legisla-  
29 tion that would prohibit the use of fiscal year 1988 funds for public works

1 construction contracts with contractors or subcontractors of a foreign  
2 country or with a supplier of products of a foreign country while the  
3 foreign country is listed by the United States Trade Representative as a  
4 nation that denies fair and equitable market opportunities for products and  
5 services of the United States in procurement and bidding;

6 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature urges the Congress to  
7 incorporate amendments in all appropriation measures pending before Con-  
8 gress to prohibit foreign citizens and foreign companies from bidding on  
9 publicly funded construction projects in the United States while the United  
10 States Trade Representative lists their country as a nation that denies  
11 fair and equitable market opportunities for the products and services of  
12 the United States in the procurement and bidding for certain construction  
13 contracts; and be it

14 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature urges the United  
15 States Congress to encourage reciprocity agreements in which the United  
16 States and a foreign nation allow the citizens and companies of both  
17 nations the opportunity to bid on publicly funded construction projects.

18 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Ronald  
19 Reagan, President of the United States; the Honorable George Bush, Vice-  
20 President of the United States and President of the United States Senate;  
21 the Honorable George P. Shultz, U.S. Secretary of State; the Honorable John  
22 C. Stennis, President Pro Tempore of the United States Senate; the Honor-  
23 able Robert C. Byrd, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Jim  
24 Wright, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Ernest  
25 F. Hollings, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and  
26 Transportation; the Honorable Lloyd Bentsen, Chairman of the Senate Commit-  
27 tee on Finance; the Honorable Claiborne Pell, Chairman of the Senate Com-  
28 mittee on Foreign Relations; the Honorable John D. Dingell, Chairman of the  
29 House Committee on Energy and Commerce; the Honorable Dante B. Fascell,

1 Chairman of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs; the Honorable Dan  
2 Rostenkowski, Chairman of the House Committee on Ways and Means; and to the  
3 Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and  
4 the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delega-  
5 tion in Congress.