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1 IN THE SENATE

BY HENSLEY

2

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 22

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5

Relating to a nuclear-free zone in the

6

arctic.

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

8 WHEREAS the main purpose of establishing nuclear-free zones is to help
9 prevent nuclear war; and

10 WHEREAS the deterrence to nuclear war is currently based on maintain-
11 ing the potential for mutual destruction by the contending nations' nuclear
12 offensive weapon deployment capabilities and technologies; and

13 WHEREAS the expansion of nuclear arsenals into new areas and environ-
14 ments can only disturb the balance of fear and further complicate the
15 situation facing the world's super powers in efforts to reduce the numbers
16 and locations of nuclear weapons; and

17 WHEREAS an emphatic expression of feeling by citizens and their local
18 and state governments can help initiate steps by the United States and
19 other nuclear powers towards world peace and away from the brink of nuclear
20 war; and

21 WHEREAS there are five treaties in existence with as many as 83 signa-
22 tories, including the U.S. and U.S.S.R., pertaining to nuclear-free zones
23 in the Antarctic, outer space, Latin America, the South Pacific, and on the
24 ocean floor; and

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

1 WHEREAS the state of Alaska is the only state of the United States of
2 America that shares the arctic with the Arctic Rim nations; and

3 WHEREAS Alaskan voters have expressed their strong support for an end
4 to the nuclear arms race, voting in August 1986 for a nuclear freeze; 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 will result in biologically unacceptable radiation standards
13 for people and ecosystems; and

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

16 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the Governor and
17 Alaska congressional delegation are requested to initiate and promote
18 efforts to

19 (1) encourage verifiable bilateral and multilateral agreements
20 and treaties between nations establishing the arctic as a nuclear-free
21 zone;

22 (2) obtain verifiable bilateral and multilateral agreements and
23 treaties to ban from the arctic all items designed primarily for the deliv-
24 ery of nuclear weapons to their targets;

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

27 (4) obtain mutual and verifiable agreements and treaties to
28 prevent nuclear weapons testing or the placement of nuclear devices in the
29 arctic; and be it

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

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