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5-1036A

1 IN THE SENATE BY HENSLEY

2 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 41

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Relating to a Siberian crossing and
6 cultural exchange.

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

8 WHEREAS President Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachev, recognizing
9 the desires of the citizens of their countries, signed an agreement in 1986
10 encouraging people-to-people exchanges between the United States and the
11 Soviet Union; and

12 WHEREAS the Alaska Performing Artists for Peace brought this agreement
13 to life by visiting the Soviet Union last year; and

14 WHEREAS the people of Alaska and the Soviet Union have a shared
15 history; and

16 WHEREAS some of the inhabitants of the Alaska and Soviet Union coastal
17 communities on the Bering Strait have family and cultural ties; and

18 WHEREAS the people of St. Lawrence Island in Alaska have extended an
19 invitation to the people in Siberia to participate in an Alaska whaling
20 festival this summer; and

21 WHEREAS other Alaska communities are planning activities to welcome
22 the people from Siberia and would like to include the Siberian visitors in
23 the World Eskimo-Indian Olympics in August; and

24 WHEREAS, if Siberian residents are allowed to visit Alaska, the visit
25 will be the first Siberian crossing for the residents in almost 40 years;
26 and

27 WHEREAS the proposed exchange would promote international understand-
28 ing and world peace;

29 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.