

Original sponsor(s): House Special Committee on Foreign Trade

1 IN THE HOUSE BY THE HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN TRADE
2 CS FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 69 (Foreign Trade)
3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
4 SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Encouraging the United States government
6 to include Aleut people and their blood
7 relatives under future Native visa free
8 travel agreements with the U.S.S.R.

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

10 WHEREAS, in September 1989, the United States and the Union of Soviet
11 Socialist Republics signed a Native Visa Free Agreement that establishes
12 visitation rights and visa free travel between Native inhabitants who live
13 on both sides of the Soviet-American border; and

14 WHEREAS because the agreement employs a geographical definition to
15 determine who is eligible to travel and limits Alaska travelers to rela-
16 tives or Natives who share linguistic or cultural ties with the Natives in
17 the Soviet geographical area, only Inuit Natives are eligible to use the
18 new travel rights; and

19 WHEREAS the Aleut people have historic and ethnic ties to the Russian
20 people since the Aleutian Chain was once occupied by the Russians and
21 formed part of Russia's trading link with other parts of Alaska; and

22 WHEREAS Russian surnames and the practice of the Russian Orthodox
23 religion are present day evidence of Aleut cultural and ethnic ties with
24 the Russian people; and

25 WHEREAS the Aleut people would like to be included in any future
26 version of the Native Visa Free Agreement so that they can explore and
27 reestablish their common heritage with the citizens of the U.S.S.R.;

28 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature encourages the United
29 States government to include Aleut people and their blood relatives among

1 the Alaska Natives allowed to travel between the U.S.S.R. and Alaska under
2 future versions of the Native Visa Free Agreement.

3 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable George Bush,
4 President of the United States; the Honorable Mikhail S. Gorbachev,
5 President of the U.S.S.R.; the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic
6 Ministry of Foreign Affairs; the Honorable James A. Baker, III, U.S. Secre-
7 tary of State; the Honorable Eduard A. Shevardnadze, Minister for Foreign
8 Affairs of the U.S.S.R.; the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank
9 Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative,
10 members of the Alaska delegation in Congress; and to the Bering Straights
11 Regional Commission.