

BY REP. FOSTER, Koponen, Menard

1 IN THE HOUSE

2

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 85

3

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5

Relating to baseball between teams from

6

Pacific Rim nations.

7

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

8

WHEREAS baseball is universally recognized as America's national
9 pastime and an important part of the American culture; and

10

WHEREAS Alaska has a rich and historic association with organized
11 baseball dating back to the late 19th century when organized league base-
12 ball was played in Nome; and

13

WHEREAS Alaska is recognized as being "number one" in nonprofessional
14 baseball by baseball authorities because of domination of the National
15 Baseball Congress Tournament in Wichita, Kansas, by Alaskan baseball teams;
16 and

17

WHEREAS Alaska quickly made its presence known in the National Base-
18 ball Congress Tournament in 1962 with an auspicious first year performance;
19 led by their founder and firebrand coach H. A. "Red" Boucher, the Fairbanks
20 Goldpanners entered a field of 32 teams seeded number 33 but only narrowly
21 lost the championship game on a controversial call that year; and

22

WHEREAS since 1969 when the first year Anchorage Glacier Pilots cap-
23 tured the National Baseball Congress crown for Alaska, 10 championships in
24 all have been brought back to Alaska, three by Anchorage, five by Fair-
25 banks, and one each by Mat-Su and Kenai; and

26

WHEREAS it required the foresight of the founder of nonprofessional
27 baseball in Alaska to use both local and national collegiate players to
28 build a nationally renowned summer baseball league; and

29

WHEREAS the work of the founder of nonprofessional baseball and those

1 who followed him has brought prestige and a high caliber of play in Alaska,
2 consistently producing future major league stars; beginning with Brian
3 Dowling, the first Alaska player to make it to the majors, scores of future
4 major league stars have played summer baseball under the midnight sun; and

5 WHEREAS, much like the State of Alaska itself, nonprofessional
6 baseball in Alaska is turning to the Pacific Rim to form partnerships; and

7 WHEREAS several countries in the Pacific Rim, including Korea, Japan,
8 Taiwan, and the Soviet Union have established or are developing baseball
9 teams and leagues; and

10 WHEREAS competition between Alaska and our Pacific Rim neighbors will
11 help forge friendly alliances that will foster important economic alliances
12 and promote harmony among the nations; and

13 WHEREAS competition with Pacific Rim baseball teams would help bring
14 additional national stature and new international attention to Alaska, and
15 help promote tourism;

16 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature heartily endorses
17 competition between Alaska's nonprofessional baseball teams and baseball
18 teams from the Pacific Rim nations of Japan, Korea, Taiwan, and the Soviet
19 Union; and be it

20 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature requests the assis-
21 tance of the Governor's Office of International Trade and the United States
22 Department of State in allowing baseball teams from the Pacific Rim
23 Countries to travel to and compete in Alaska and for Alaska teams to recip-
24 rocate.

25 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable James A.
26 Baker, U.S. Secretary of State; the Honorable Thomas S. Foley, Speaker of
27 the U.S. House of Representatives; to Fay Vincent, Commissioner of Base-
28 ball; to Emmitt Wilson, Commissioner of the Alaska Baseball League; and to
29 the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators,

1 and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska
2 delegation in Congress.

3