

Original sponsor(s): REP. FOSTER, Koponen, Menard

1 IN THE HOUSE BY THE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
2 CS FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 85 (State Affairs)  
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 and the early 20th century  
12 when organized league baseball was played in Nome, Ketchikan, and Juneau;  
13 and  
14 WHEREAS Alaska is recognized as being "number one" in nonprofessional  
15 baseball by baseball authorities because of domination of the National  
16 Baseball Congress World Series in Wichita, Kansas, and the U.S. Open Tour-  
17 nament by Alaskan baseball teams; and  
18 WHEREAS Alaska quickly made its presence known in the National Base-  
19 ball Congress World Series in 1962 with an auspicious first year perfor-  
20 mance; led by their founder and firebrand coach H. A. "Red" Boucher, the  
21 Pan Alaska Goldpanners of Fairbanks, now known as the Alaska Goldpanners,  
22 entered a field of 32 teams seeded number 33 but only narrowly lost the  
23 championship game on a controversial call that year; and  
24 WHEREAS since 1969 when the first year Anchorage Glacier Pilots cap-  
25 tured the National Baseball Congress crown for Alaska, 10 National champi-  
26 onships in all have been brought back to Alaska, three by Anchorage, five  
27 by Fairbanks, and one each by Mat-Su and Kenai; and  
28 WHEREAS Alaska baseball teams have a long history of playing in inter-  
29 national tournaments such as the World Tournament in Japan, the Canada

1 International in Kamloops, and the Goodwill Tour in Holland and Japan; and

2 WHEREAS seven international championships have been brought back to  
3 Alaska, four from the Canada International by the Alaska Goldpanners and  
4 one from the North Pole Nicks, one from the U.S. Open by the Alaska  
5 Goldpanners, and one from the World Tournament by the Alaska Goldpanners;  
6 and

7 WHEREAS it required the foresight of the founders of nonprofessional  
8 baseball in Alaska to use local, national collegiate, and former profes-  
9 sional players to build a nationally renowned summer baseball league; and

10 WHEREAS the work of the founders of nonprofessional baseball and those  
11 who followed them have brought prestige and a high caliber of play in  
12 Alaska, consistently producing future major league stars; beginning with  
13 Dave Dowling, the first Alaska player to make it to the majors, scores of  
14 future major league stars have played summer baseball under the midnight  
15 sun; and

16 WHEREAS, much like the State of Alaska itself, nonprofessional base-  
17 ball in Alaska is turning to the Pacific Rim to form partnerships; and

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

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

24 WHEREAS competition with Pacific Rim baseball teams would help bring  
25 additional national stature and new international attention to Alaska, and  
26 help promote tourism;

27 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature heartily endorses  
28 competition between Alaska's nonprofessional baseball teams and baseball  
29 teams from the Pacific Rim nations of Japan, Korea, Taiwan, and the Soviet

1 Union; and be it

2       **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature requests the assis-  
3 tance of the Governor's Office of International Trade and the United States  
4 Department of State in allowing baseball teams from the Pacific Rim Coun-  
5 tries, especially the Soviet Union, to travel to and compete in Alaska and  
6 for Alaska teams to reciprocate.

7       **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable James A.  
8 Baker, U.S. Secretary of State; the Honorable Steve Cowper, Governor; to  
9 Fay Vincent, Commissioner of Baseball; to Emmitt Wilson, Commissioner of  
10 the Alaska Baseball League; Steven Bush, Executive Director of the Alaska  
11 Amateur Sports Authority; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the  
12 Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S.  
13 Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.

14