

BY SEN. KERTTULA

1 IN THE SENATE

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 71

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

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SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

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Encouraging Savoonga, Alaska, and

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Sereniki, U.S.S.R., to be sister cities.

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

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WHEREAS the residents of Savoonga on St. Lawrence Island in Alaska and

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Sereniki in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics are closely related

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culturally, ethnically, and socially; and

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WHEREAS the residents of both cities speak the same Native language,

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which is Siberian Yupik, and live a subsistence lifestyle based on whaling,

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fishing, berry-picking, and walrus hunting; and

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WHEREAS both cities place great emphasis on traditional Native values,

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including honoring and learning from their elders; and

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WHEREAS, until the Cold War intervened, the residents of the two

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cities intermarried and traded with each other; and

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WHEREAS, now that the Cold War has thawed, becoming sister cities

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would help the two cities reestablish their communication and trade;

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BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature encourages the City

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of Savoonga on St. Lawrence Island in Alaska and the City of Sereniki in

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the U.S.S.R. to become sister cities in order to help them reestablish the

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communication and trade between the two cities that were halted by the Cold

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War.

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COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the City of Sereniki,

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U.S.S.R.; and to the Honorable Jerry Wongittilin, Mayor of the City of

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Savoonga, Alaska.