

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 54

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Introduced: 4/21/92
Referred: Transportation

A RESOLUTION

1 **Supporting environmentally sound development of a northern sea route and related shipping**
2 **technologies.**

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

4 **WHEREAS** 14 regions and states bordering the Arctic and North Pacific Rims, including Alaska,
5 have joined in a cooperative effort through the Northern Forum, established November 8, 1991, to
6 advance opportunities common to states and nations of the Northern Hemisphere; and

7 **WHEREAS** the northern sea route project is a continuation of over 600 years of effort by the
8 Russians and others to develop a shipping route through the Arctic Ocean to connect Europe to east Asia
9 and North America via the shortest maritime distance; and

10 **WHEREAS** the opening of maritime trade routes through the Arctic Ocean provides the first
11 significant decrease in ocean distances between North America and Europe since the opening of the Suez
12 and Panama Canals; and

13 **WHEREAS** the United States Arctic Research Commission and others consider the northern sea
14 route as an important strategic alternative for shipping and commerce routed through the Suez or Panama
15 Canals; and

16 **WHEREAS** the technology in shipping associated with the northern sea route project has

1 immediate and enduring applicability for providing communities in western and northern Alaska with
2 an extended navigation season and regularly scheduled services; and

3 **WHEREAS** an international commercial shipping route through the Arctic Ocean can provide
4 Alaska businesses with access to markets that have previously been inaccessible due to cost and distance;

5 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature fully supports the efforts of the
6 administration, the Northern Forum, and Alaska businesses to open the northern sea route to international
7 commercial shipping as soon as possible, for as long a season as possible, and with due regard for
8 environmental considerations along the entire course of the route; and be it

9 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature encourages and supports the use of
10 northern sea route shipping technologies and international cooperation to expand the shipping season into
11 western and northern Alaska for the greatest possible period of time.

12 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Northern Forum and the Alaska Chamber of
13 Commerce.