

SJR

48

HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

NEXT COMMITTEE: RULES

BILL: SJR 48

CURRENT VERSION: CS SJR 48 (SA)

SCHEDULED: MARCH 7, 1988

SPONSOR: HENSLEY

PHONE NO: 3862

CONTACT FILE: \_\_\_\_\_

BILL SUBJECT: RELATING TO THE PROMOTION OF ALASKAN AND SOVIET EXCHANGES

SPONSOR BACKUP: LETTERS OF ENDORSEMENT

AFFECTED AGENCIES:

<u>DEPARTMENT</u>	<u>CONTACT/PHONE</u>	<u>COMMENT</u>
N/A		

FISCAL NOTES

<u>AGENCY</u>	<u>REQUESTED</u>	<u>DATED</u>	<u>FY 88 AMT</u>	<u>FY 89 AMT</u>

ACTION

<u>DATE</u>	<u>COMMENT</u>
3/7/88	PASSED FROM STATE AFFAIRS

STATE OF ALASKA  
THE LEGISLATURE

POUCH Y - STATE CAPITOL  
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811  
907-465-3800

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY  
LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE LIBRARY

May, 1988

Copies of minutes listed below were originally included in this file. The minutes are available on the STAIRS database CMPR. In order to save space copies of minutes have not been left in the files.

Mary Van Nimwegen

*House State Affrs:*

*103/07/88*



# Alaska State Senate

P.O. Box V  
Juneau, AK 99811  
Phone: (907) 465-2444  
465-3862/465-4923



Senate Finance Committee  
State Affairs Committee  
Vice-Chair, Rules Committee  
Chair, Administrative Regulation Review

P.O. Box 1069  
Kotzebue, Alaska 99752  
(907) 442-2494

William L. Hensley

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Representative Fran Ulmer, Chair  
House State Affairs Committee

FROM: Senator Willie Hensley *WHL*

SUBJ: Request for scheduling of two resolutions

DATE: February 17, 1988

I would appreciate it if you would schedule two resolutions relating to Alaska and Siberia for hearing before the State Affairs Committee as soon as may be convenient to the Committee.

The two resolutions, which were adopted by the Senate on February 12, are:

- SCR 34: Asks the Governor to appoint a 9-member commission to identify mutually beneficial areas of interaction between the Soviet Union and Alaska;
- SJR 48: Asks the President to give his continued support to opening of the Alaska-Siberia border to air travel, trade, and various exchanges in his 1988 meeting with Secretary General Gorgachev.

One reason I make this request for early scheduling is that a delegation of health officials from the Soviet Union will be in Juneau on February 28 and it would be fitting if final action on the resolutions could be taken by then.

For your information and that of your committee members I am attaching letters of support for the resolutions. There was neither written nor oral opposition in the Senate.

Thank you.

WLH/BA/mjt

Attachments

# STATE OF ALASKA

STEVE COWPER, GOVERNOR

## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

### OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE

7TH FLOOR FRONTIER BUILDING  
3601 C STREET, SUITE 798  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99503-5934  
PHONE: (907) 561-5585

February 4, 1988

Senator Willie Hensley  
Senate Finance Committee  
P.O. Box V  
Juneau, AK 99811

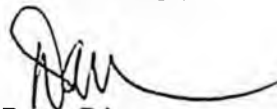
Dear Senator Hensley:

I wanted to take this opportunity to express my support for SCR 34 relating to the establishment of a commission on Alaska-Soviet relations. I specifically wanted to applaud the statesman like approach that you have taken toward our great neighbor. To have the wisdom to see a diplomatic window opening and the courage to pursue endeavors through such a window is a very positive event.

I support the clear intent of the resolution which is to push for increased trade and cultural relations with the Soviet Far East. If you successfully proceed with this resolution I trust that as many interested parties as possible will have the opportunity to participate in the formulation of our state's goals and objectives regarding Alaska and Soviet relations.

If I can be of any assistance to you in any capacity please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Dan Dixon  
Director

January 16, 1988

Senator Willy Hensley  
Alaska State Legislature  
Juneau, Alaska

СИБИРСКИЙ  
УНИВЕРСИТЕТ  
УЧЕБНО-НАУЧНО-МЕДИЦИНСКИЙ  
ЦЕНТР  
УЧЕБНО-НАУЧНО-МЕДИЦИНСКИЙ  
ЦЕНТР

Dear Senator Hensley:

I am writing this letter in support of Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 34 entitled "Relating to the establishment of a commission on Alaska-Soviet relations" and for Senate Joint Resolution No. 48 "Relating to the promotion of Alaskan and Soviet Exchanges".

There is no doubt in my mind of the importance of these resolutions which address our Siberian neighbors to encourage closer cooperation and relationships with them. These are times of historic importance to both the United States and the USSR and it is only appropriate that Alaska be highly profiled in future agreements and bi-lateral relationships affecting our lives and that of our children.

THEODORE N. MALA  
MD, MPH  
PROGRAM DIRECTOR  
1984-1988  
ASSISTANT  
DIRECTOR  
1981-1984  
DIRECTOR  
1978-1981

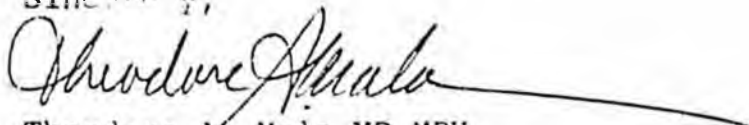
History has created a unique role for Alaska to be not only actively involved in the future destiny of the arctic but also to be a world class model of how well our countries can work together.

The USSR has some interaction with all of the countries on its borders except for Alaska. It is unconscionable that our small population of under one half million people has no positive relationship with the thirty five million people that are our immediate neighbors just across the Bering Strait.

These resolutions are positive first steps towards correcting that situation and I salute you and your Senate colleagues, Senators Josephson, Sturgulewski, Binkley, Duncan and Zharoff for your insight and global perspectives in sponsoring them.

I look forward to working with you and your colleagues in the future on improving our relationships with our Siberian neighbors.

Sincerely,

  
Theodore N. Mala, MD, MPH  
Dir

**STEVE COWPER, GOVERNOR**

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

*OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER*

*GOLDBELT PLACE  
801 WEST 10th STREET  
POUCH F  
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811*

February 1, 1988

The Honorable William L. Hensley  
Alaska State Senate  
P.O. Box V  
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Senator Hensley:

This letter is in support of Senate Joint Resolution No. 48 which relates to the promotion of Alaskan and Soviet exchanges that you and Senators Josephson, Sturgulewski, Binkley, Duncan, and Zharoff are sponsoring.

Opening the border between Alaska and Siberia to air travel, trade, cultural and scientific exchanges will send a powerful signal to the rest of the world that the present leaders of both nations, the United States and the Soviet Union, are sensitive to the needs of their citizens and indeed willing to work together to address common issues that both countries face.

Certainly, the establishment of exchanges between the two countries will enhance our knowledge of the educational system in the Soviet north especially as it relates to the indigenous minority peoples of which there are more than twenty nationalities.

Canada and the Soviet Union have enjoyed educational exchanges for the past several years. In fact, the teacher education program for the Canadian Inuit of northern Quebec is modeled after a teacher education program developed in the Soviet Union. The teacher training program promotes the use of a Native language as the instructional language. We can learn much from each other in the area of educating minority students whose culture is different from the cultural base of the schools that they attend.

An informal group of circumpolar northern educators organized as the Steering Committee for the International Cross-Cultural Education Seminar Series in the Circumpolar North has organized seminars in Alaska, Greenland, Norway, and Canada for the last twenty years. In fact, I believe you and Bob Arnold were participants at the initial meeting which formed the group in Montreal, Quebec in the late 1960s. The seminars have provided a means for learning how indigenous minorities from different countries have perceived and approached common problems in educational and related social matters. Finland, Sweden, Norway, Greenland, Canada, and Alaska participated in the last seminar series

that were held in Iqaluit, Baffin Island, Northwest Territories, Canada. Participants from the Soviet Union are invited to each seminar series, but so far we have not had the pleasure and benefit of their participation.

As a direct result of the meeting at Iqaluit, Northwest Territories, I was selected as chairperson for organizing a meeting of Ministers of Education in Juneau, Alaska. Plans for that meeting are in their final stages, and the University of Alaska Southeast will be the site for the meetings. The meeting dates are May 16-18, 1988. The focus will be on rural education and educational technology. There is a possibility that we may have Soviet participation. Recent developments which have occurred in the last few days indicate progress in securing Soviet participation.

Last December we became aware of a private initiative spearheaded by Jim Stimple, a Nome realtor, to establish friendship and trade ties between Nome, Alaska and Provideniya, U.S.S.R. Mr. Stimple informed the Department of Education that the Nome P.T.A. had endorsed the idea of teacher and student exchanges between Nome and Provideniya. The mayor of Provideniya wrote a warm letter to the people of Nome saying, "We have common interests: the preservation of clean water and shores of Chukotka and Alaska: the preservation of flora and fauna of the North and natural riches. We can and must collaborate in the development of economy, in the region of science, culture, and sports. We must learn more about one another and meet more often: become more friendly and develop commercial ties."

There is certainly ample interest and willingness from both sides of the Bering Sea to initiate exchanges which can be of mutual benefit to both the United States and the Soviet Union.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "William G. Demmert", with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

William G. Demmert  
Commissioner

JOHN C. STENNIS, MISSISSIPPI, CHAIRMAN

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## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6025

January 22, 1988

FRANCIS J. SULLIVAN, STAFF DIRECTOR  
J. KEITH KENNEDY, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

The Honorable William L. Hensley  
Alaska State Senate  
P.O. Box V  
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Willie:

Thanks for writing and having your assistant, Bob Arnold, call my office in Juneau to let me know of your interest in increasing mutually beneficial interactions between Alaska and the Soviet Union.

This is something I've been working toward from several different angles. For instance, I've taken steps to express my support for the proposal to build an electrical transmission line that would link the U.S. and the Soviet Union via Alaska and Siberia.

I brought this proposal to Howard Baker's attention shortly before the Summit last month. Although the main focus of Reagan and Gorbachev's Summit was the nuclear arms treaty on Intermediate Nuclear Forces (INF), I asked that the proposal put forward by Global Energy Network International (GENI) be given attention and I expect they will consider it as part of the commitment to work toward more cooperation in the Arctic.

I support your efforts to send a clear message from the Alaska State Senate and Legislature that Alaskans want to reap the full advantages of our proximity to the Soviet Union and that we see great potential in the future enhancement of travel, trade, and scientific and cultural exchanges.

In establishing a 9 member commission on Alaskan-Soviet relations, however, the State will necessarily have to work closely with foreign policy-makers at the Federal level as the States are prohibited from developing their own foreign policy. As Alaska's senior representative in the Federal government, I offer my assistance in promoting these interactions and I will continue my efforts to develop Alaska's ties with our Soviet neighbors.

Thanks again for bringing your resolutions to my attention. I look forward to working closely with you and the State on this.

With best wishes,

Cordially,



TED STEVENS



UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA, FAIRBANKS  
Box 900111 Fairbanks, Alaska 99775-0120

FEB 3 1988 February 1, 1988

Senator William L. Hensley  
Alaska State Senate  
P.O. Box V  
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Senator Hensley,

Thank you for sending copies of Senate Joint Resolution No.48 urging President Reagan to give continued support to Alaska-Soviet relations, including opening the Alaska-Siberia border, and Senate concurrent Resolution No.34 urging Governor Cowper to establish a commission to identify the objectives of these relations.

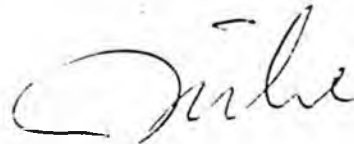
I am pleased indeed to see this initiative, and would be happy to help in whatever way I might to support their adoption by the Legislature and their implementation.

Let me explain why I consider these resolutions so appropriate, timely, and important to Alaska. On any globe Alaska is still obviously the part of the New World that links with the Old. Indeed for Alaska Natives, even all Native Americans (whose ancestors all were once Alaska Natives also) Alaska was the crossroads of the hemispheres. Since 1948, however, the world at our latitudes has become again as though flat, with Alaska at the edge, beyond which it is impossible to go, a dead end. This Cold War closure of the border distorts our perspective of our place in the world, in a way that severely limits our potential. The effect is even more detrimental for one group of Alaskans, the Eskimos of the Bering Strait region and St. Lawrence Island particularly, who are cut off from their kinsmen on the Soviet side, by a barrier like a Berlin Wall without gates.

Because of my concern for the survival of Alaska Native languages, I have been personally involved since 1971 in efforts to allow the resumption of the traditional visits by Alaskan and Siberian Eskimos to each other, and for that purpose have tried to learn as much as I could about the situation of Eskimos on the Soviet side. Only now, with the efforts of so many culminating in the Reagan-Gorbachev summit agreement on the general principles of US-Soviet Arctic

relations, am I optimistic that these visits may soon be possible again. It remains for me a high priority to pursue this goal, and I would personally hope to be of some service as a source of information especially in this connection, and also in the larger perspective, which I recognize, of cultural, economic, and scientific exchange and travel as stated so well in the resolutions you are submitting. I certainly hope these gain a favorable response in our legislature, in the interest of Alaskans quite generally, as well as the Eskimo people in particular.

Sincerely,



Michael E. Krauss  
Professor  
Director, Alaska Native Language Center  
University of Alaska Fairbanks  
College of Liberal Arts



## Nome Chamber of Commerce

Post Office Box 251, Nome, Alaska 99762

January 18, 1988

Alaska State Senate  
William L. Hensley  
P.O. Box V  
Juneau, Alaska  
99811

1988

Dear Willie;

Thank you for introducing Senate Joint Resolution No. 48, Relating to the promotion of Alaskan and Soviet exchanges, and Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 34, Relating to the establishment of a commission on Alaskan-Soviet relations.

As Chairman of the Committee for Cooperation, Commerce, and Peace, the Nome Chamber of Commerce, I support these resolutions and endorse your effort and the members of the Senate who have sponsored these Resolutions, Sen. Josephson, Sturgulewski, Binkley, Duncan, and Zharoff.

Enclosed is a letter my wife, Bernadette Alvanna-Stimpfle just received from Gluhih Margarita Sergeevna, an Eskimo woman living in Siberia, just across from us in the Bering Strait, this letter says to all Alaskans the true meaning of restoring the open border between Alaska and the Soviet Far East.

We in Nome will be organizing our cultural flights from Nome to Provideniya in small groups with the local air carriers. We will submit our first groups on February 15, 1988 to the required State Dept. and Soviet officials. Enclosed are the Aircraft Entry Requirements of the Soviet Union. We invite all Alaskans to participate in up coming friendship and goodwill visits.

Copies of these Resolutions No. 48 & 34 have been sent to officials in Provideniya, and I am awaiting the names of officials in Magadan Oblast. We have heard that the Nome to Provideniya exchanges have been discussed in Khabarevsk.

Sincerely-

*Jim Stimpfle*

Jim Stimpfle

Chairman, Committee for Cooperation, Commerce, and Peace