

SJR

16

<TARGET><BILL>SJR 16</BILL><SUBJECT>SJR
16</SUBJECT><COMM>HEDA29</COMM></TARGET>

29th Alaska State Legislature

Session:
State Capitol, Room 121
Juneau, AK 99801
Phone: (907) 465-2995
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716 W 4th Avenue, Room 515
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Senator Lesil McGuire

Sponsor Statement

SJR 16 "Arctic Economic Council"

SJR 16 "Expressing support for the Arctic Economic Council; and requesting that the United States Congress express support for the Arctic economic Council, for the chair of the Arctic Economic Council to be a resident of this state, and for the structure of the Arctic Economic Council Leadership to mirror the rotation of the chair of the Arctic Council."

The Arctic Council was established by the Ottawa Declaration of 1996 to function as a high-level intergovernmental forum to promote cooperation, coordination, and interaction across the Arctic. The Arctic Economic Council was established in 2012 by the Arctic Council. The Arctic Economic Council is in charge of fostering business development in the Arctic, engaging in deeper circumpolar cooperation, and providing a business perspective to the work of the Arctic Council.

SJR 16 urges the federal government to work to empower residents of Alaska, especially indigenous residents, as partners in the Arctic Economic Council. It asks the Alaskan State Legislature to express its confidence in, and support for, the Arctic Economic Council. The United States will become chair of the Arctic Council in 2015. This resolution states that it is the intent of this legislature to have the chairmanship to the Arctic Economic Council parallel the chairmanship of the Arctic Council.

I urge you to support this resolution emphasizing the importance of the Arctic, and the role that Alaskans will play in shaping its future.

**CS FOR SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 16(ARC)
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION**

BY THE SENATE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE ARCTIC

**Offered:
Referred:**

Sponsor(s): SENATOR MCGUIRE

A RESOLUTION

1 **Expressing support for the Arctic Economic Council and the United States Arctic**
2 **Economic Council delegation; requesting that the United States Congress express**
3 **support for the Arctic Economic Council, for the chair of the Arctic Economic Council**
4 **to be a resident of this state, and for the structure of the Arctic Economic Council**
5 **leadership to mirror the rotation of the chair of the Arctic Council; and urging the**
6 **United States Congress to empower residents of the state as partners in the Arctic**
7 **Economic Council.**

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

9 **WHEREAS** the United States is a member nation because of the Arctic region of this
10 state; and

11 **WHEREAS**, during the United States chairmanship of the Arctic Council, the chair of
12 the Arctic Economic Council should be a resident of the state; and

13 **WHEREAS** the structure of the Arctic Economic Council leadership should mirror
14 the rotation of the chair of the Arctic Council; and

1 **WHEREAS** the Arctic Council was established by the Ottawa Declaration of 1996 to
2 function as a high-level intergovernmental forum to promote cooperation, coordination, and
3 interaction across the Arctic, with the involvement of the indigenous communities and people
4 of the Arctic, and with a focus on sustainable development and environmental protection of
5 the Arctic; and

6 **WHEREAS** the United States of America, the Russian Federation, Finland, Norway,
7 Sweden, the Kingdom of Denmark, including Greenland and the Faroe Islands, Iceland, and
8 Canada are all member nations of the Arctic Council; and

9 **WHEREAS** the Permanent Participant organizations of the Arctic Council include the
10 Inuit Circumpolar Council, the Aleut International Association, the Gwich'in Council
11 International, the Arctic Athabaskan Council, the Saami Council, and the Russian Association
12 of Indigenous Peoples of the North; and

13 **WHEREAS** the indigenous people of the state are represented in four of the six
14 Permanent Participant organizations; and

15 **WHEREAS**, in 2013, Canada assumed the chair of the Arctic Council; and

16 **WHEREAS**, on August 23, 2012, Steven Harper, Prime Minister of Canada,
17 appointed Minister Leona Aglukkaq as the chair of the Arctic Council during the
18 chairmanship of Canada; and

19 **WHEREAS** Minister Aglukkaq is the first indigenous person to serve as chair of the
20 Arctic Council; and

21 **WHEREAS**, like the residents of the state and the Alaska State Legislature, Minister
22 Aglukkaq recognizes the importance of responsible economic, natural, and human resource
23 development, as well as the importance of a healthy environment; and

24 **WHEREAS**, as a result of this understanding, Minister Aglukkaq took a leadership
25 position in creating the Arctic Economic Council; and

26 **WHEREAS** the Arctic Economic Council is charged with fostering business
27 development in the Arctic, engaging in deeper circumpolar cooperation, and providing a
28 business perspective to the work of the Arctic Council; and

29 **WHEREAS** the Arctic Economic Council has the same members as the Arctic
30 Council; and

31 **WHEREAS** Alaskans Drue Pearce, Gail Schubert, Lori Davey, and Bruce Harland

1 represented the United States at the inaugural meeting in Iqaluit; and

2 **WHEREAS** indigenous resident Tara Sweeny represented the Inuit Circumpolar
3 Council as a Permanent Participant at the inaugural meeting in Iqaluit and was elected as the
4 United States representative on the executive committee of the Arctic Economic Council; and

5 **WHEREAS** the federal government had no official presence at the inaugural meeting
6 of the Arctic Economic Council, and the entire United States delegation was made up of
7 residents of the state; and

8 **WHEREAS** the United States Arctic Economic Council delegation, consisting of
9 three state business representatives and resident Permanent Participants, is working to secure
10 the rotation of the chair of the Arctic Economic Council to mirror the rotation of the chair of
11 the Arctic Council; and

12 **WHEREAS**, if the United States Arctic Economic Council delegation is successful in
13 its efforts, an Alaskan will be the incoming chair of the Arctic Economic Council in
14 April 2015; and

15 **WHEREAS**, as residents of an Arctic state, Alaskans realize the importance of
16 balancing responsible economic development of natural and human resources and
17 environmental stewardship; and

18 **WHEREAS** residents of the state living in the Arctic, as well as indigenous residents
19 of the state, rely on the land and the sea to sustain traditional lifestyles and have a wealth of
20 traditional knowledge that could be incorporated into the policies that affect the Arctic; and

21 **WHEREAS** residents of the state, including indigenous residents of the state, rely on
22 revenue from responsible economic development to maintain schools, roads, communities,
23 and essential public service infrastructure; and

24 **WHEREAS** the Alaska State Legislature recognizes the importance of the Arctic
25 Economic Council in providing a forum for residents of the state to give input on policies and
26 guiding principles regarding economic development in the Arctic; and

27 **WHEREAS** the state holds a strategic position as the gateway to the Arctic and will
28 benefit from the efforts of the Arctic Economic Council;

29 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature seeks to empower the United
30 States Arctic Economic Council delegation, which consists entirely of residents of this state;
31 and be it

1 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature expresses its confidence
2 in and support for the Arctic Economic Council; and be it

3 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests that
4 the United States Congress express support for the Arctic Economic Council, for the chair of
5 the Arctic Economic Council to be a resident of this state, and for the structure of the Arctic
6 Economic Council leadership to mirror the rotation of the chair of the Arctic Council; and be
7 it

8 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States
9 Congress to empower residents of the state as partners in the Arctic Economic Council.

10 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of
11 the United States; the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and
12 President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable John F. Kerry, United States Secretary of State;
13 David Balton, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Oceans and Fisheries, Bureau of Oceans and
14 International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, United States Department of State; Julia
15 Gourley, Senior Arctic Official, Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and
16 Scientific Affairs, United States Department of State; Admiral Robert J. Papp, Jr., Special
17 Representative for the Arctic, United States Department of State; Fran Ulmer, Special
18 Advisor on Arctic Science and Policy, United States Department of State; Craig Fleener,
19 Special Assistant on Arctic Policy, Office of the Governor; and the Honorable Lisa
20 Murkowski and the Honorable Dan Sullivan, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young,
21 U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.

Alaska State Legislature
Senate Special Committee on the Arctic

Senator Lesil McGuire
Senator Cathy Giessel
Senator Click Bishop
Senator John Coghill



Senator Gary Stevens
Senator Lyman Hoffman
Senator Donald Olson

Senator Lesil McGuire, Co-Chair
Senator Cathy Giessel, Co-chair

Summary of Changes
CS for SJR 16
Version W to Version H
29-LS0605\H

Page 1 Line 6

Three new "WHEREAS's" were inserted.

Insert:

"WHEREAS Alaska is what makes the United States and Arctic Nation; and
WHEREAS the chair of the Arctic Economic Council should, with the support of the state of
Alaska and the US Congress, be a resident of Alaska, and
WHEREAS the chair of the Arctic Economic Council should mirror the rotation of the chair of
the Arctic Council; and"

Page 1, Line 14-15

This line was deleted in lieu of the new Page 1 Line 9-10

~~Delete: "WHEREAS the United States is a member nation because of the Arctic region of this
state; and"~~

Page 2, line 11

~~Delete: "WHEREAS Minister Aglukkaq is an Inuk from Iqaluit, Nunavut, Canada; and"~~

Page 2, Lines 14-15

Delete: ~~“WHEREAS Minister Aglukkaq recognizes that environmental stewardship must be balanced with responsible development of natural and human resources; and”~~

Insert: “WHEREAS like Alaskans and the Alaska State Legislature, Minister Aglukkaq recognizes the importance of responsible economic, natural and human resource development as well as the importance of a healthy environment; and”

This is now page 2, Lines 21-23

Page 2, lines 23-31

The following lines were deleted for redundancy and clarity

Delete:

~~“WHEREAS the Arctic Economic Council held its inaugural organization meeting in Iqaluit, Nunavut, Canada, on September 2-3, 2014; and~~

~~WHEREAS representatives from member countries of the United States of America, the Russian Federation, Finland, Norway, Sweden, the Kingdom of Denmark, Iceland, and Canada attended the inaugural meeting in Iqaluit; and~~

~~WHEREAS representatives from the Inuit Circumpolar Conference, Arctic Athabaskan Council, Gwich'in Council International, the Saami Council, and the Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North represented the Permanent Participants at the inaugural meeting in Iqaluit; and”~~

Page 3, Lines 6-7

Delete: ~~“WHEREAS the federal government had no official presence at the inaugural meeting in Iqaluit; and”~~

Insert: “WHEREAS the federal government had no official presence at the inaugural meeting of the Arctic Economic Council, the entire United States delegation was made up of Alaskans; and”

This is now Page 3, Lines 5-7

Page 3, Lines 15-20

The following lines were deleted and combined into a new WHEREAS for brevity and clarity (Below)

Delete:

~~“WHEREAS as residents of an Arctic state, Alaskans realize the importance of balancing responsible economic development of natural and human resources and environmental stewardship; and~~

~~WHEREAS the Alaska State Legislature recognizes that Alaskans need both responsible economic development and environmental stewardship to continue to thrive, especially in the Arctic; and”~~

Alaska State Legislature
Senate Special Committee on the Arctic

Senator Lesil McGuire
Senator Cathy Giessel
Senator Click Bishop
Senator John Coghill



Senator Gary Stevens
Senator Lyman Hoffman
Senator Donald Olson

Senator Lesil McGuire, Co-Chair
Senator Cathy Giessel, Co-chair

Page 3, Lines 21-22

~~Delete: "WHEREAS Arctic indigenous people, including indigenous residents of the state, rely on the land and the sea to sustain traditional lifestyles; and"~~

Insert: "WHEREAS Alaskans living in the Arctic, as well as indigenous residents of the state, rely on the land and the sea to sustain traditional lifestyles, and have a wealth to traditional knowledge that could be incorporated into the polices that affect the Arctic; and"

This is now Page 3, Lines 18-20

Page 3, Lines 26-28

The following was deleted and combined with the above change for brevity and clarity

~~Delete "WHEREAS Arctic indigenous people, including indigenous residents of the state, have a wealth of traditional knowledge that could be incorporated into the policies that affect eh Arctic; and"~~

Page 4, lines 3-8

The following lines were reordered for clarity and changed from "WHEREAS" to "Resolved"

Delete:

~~"WHEREAS the Alaska State Legislature seeks to empower the United States Arctic Economic Council delegation, which consists entirely of residents of the state; and~~

~~WHEREAS the federal government should work to empower residents of the state, especially indigenous residents of the state, as partners in the Arctic Economic Council;~~

~~BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature expresses its confidence in and support for the Arctic Economic Council; and be it"~~

Page 3, lines 29-31

Insert:

"BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature seeks to empower the United States Arctic Economic Delegation, which consists entirely of residents of this state; and"

Page 4, Lines 1-2

Insert:

"FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislatures expresses its confidence in and support for the Arctic Economic Council; and"

Page 4, lines 8-9

Insert:

"FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States federal government to work to empower Alaskans as partners in the Arctic Economic Council;"

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2015 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Bill Version CSSJR 16(ARC)
 Fiscal Note Number 1
 (S) Publish Date 3/20/2015

Identifier (file name) _____ Dept. Affected _____
 Title _____ Appropriation _____
 Allocation _____

Sponsor Senate Special Committee on the Arctic
 Requester Senate Special Committee on the Arctic OMB Component Number _____

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

	FY16 Appropriation Requested	Included in Governor's FY16 Request	Out-Year Cost Estimates				
			FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY16	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21
Personal Services							
Travel							
Services							
Commodities							
Capital Outlay							
Grants, Benefits							
Miscellaneous							
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

FUND SOURCE		(Thousands of Dollars)					
1002	Federal Receipts						
1003	GF Match						
1004	GF						
1005	GF/Prgm (DGF)						
1007	I/A Rcpts (Other)						
1156	Rcpt Svcs (DGF)						
		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

POSITIONS							
Full-time							
Part-time							
Temporary							

CHANGE IN REVENUES							

Estimated **SUPPLEMENTAL (FY15) operating costs** _____ (separate supplemental appropriation required)
 (discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

Estimated **CAPITAL (FY16) costs** _____ (separate capital appropriation required)
 (discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

ASSOCIATED REGULATIONS

Does the bill direct, or will the bill result in, regulation changes adopted by your agency? _____
 If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended, or repealed? _____ Discuss details in analysis section.

Why this fiscal note differs from previous version (if initial version, please note as such)

Not applicable. Initial version.

Prepared by Senate Special Committee on the Arctic
 Division _____
 Approved by /s/ Senator McGuire
 Agency _____

Phone 465-2995
 Date/Time 3/19/15 12:00 AM
 Date 3/19/2015

FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS #1

STATE OF ALASKA
2015 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. CSSJR 16(ARC)

Analysis

Will be absorbed within the current legislative budget.



March 19, 2015

Representative Ben Nageak
State Capitol Room 126
Juneau, AK 99801

Senator Lesil McGuire
State Capitol Room 121
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: SUPPORT FOR THE ARCTIC ECONOMIC COUNCIL

Dear Representative Nageak and Senator McGuire:

On behalf of Bering Straits Native Corporation, I am writing this letter to ask for your general support of the Arctic Economic Council (AEC). The AEC works to foster business development in the Arctic, engages in deeper circumpolar cooperation, and provides a business perspective to the work of the Arctic Council, its parent organization.

The AEC was created under the leadership of the Canadian Chairmanship of the Arctic Council and the U.S. delegation of the AEC is comprised entirely of Alaskans. Four of the six Permanent Participants are also Alaska based, which provides even more meaningful representation for our state within the Arctic Economic Council.

The creation of the AEC comes at critical time. With the possibility of oil and gas exploration and production in U.S. Arctic waters, increased international shipping, as well longer ice-free periods and changing storm patterns, coastal Arctic communities face new challenges and opportunities. The U.S. has proposed a structure that mirror's the rotation of the chairmanship for the Arctic Council. This means that the U.S. could also potentially assume the chairmanship of the AEC in April, which is the same time the chairmanship of the Arctic Council is handed over from Canada to the U.S.

Acquiring the chairmanship of the AEC for the next two years empowers Alaskans to set the agenda for responsible and sustainable pan-Arctic economic development. Bering Straits Native Corp. recognizes the importance and strength of the AEC. We also respectfully encourage the Alaska State Legislature to demonstrate its support of and confidence in the AEC.

Thank you,

Gail R. Schubert
President & CEO

Cc: Governor Bill Walker
Lt. Governor Byron Mallott
Senate President Kevin Meyer
Senator Donny Olson
House Speaker Mike Chenault

From: Mike Sfraga [<mailto:msfraga@alaska.edu>]
Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2015 9:59 AM
To: Jesse Logan
Cc: Trevor Gutierrez
Subject: Re: FW: [UAF Chancellor] Senate Special Committee on the Arctic

Jesse - sorry for the delay in getting back to you. I read the draft and it is good. Linking the rotating chair to mirror the AC is good - and it would form a more aligned framework. I suspect US representatives in DC will push back on the suggested requirement to have the Chair come from AK. But - it's a fine idea in my opinion and we have the leadership and expertise. We may find that the US position on the matter does not include a guarantee, rather a statement along the lines of "whenever possible," or the "US will strive to identify and consider a qualified Alaskan," or some such language. Either way, placing AK centrally in the narrative and suggested leadership role is a very good thing.

I will be traveling Thursday so not available to call in; I tried changing my plans but am locked into what I have in place.

I will be monitoring email as best as possible, and you have my cell. Please call if something comes up or you have a question. If I miss the call (2 hours behind you) I will call you back.

Mike

On Fri, Mar 13, 2015 at 1:16 PM, Jesse Logan <Jesse.Logan@akleg.gov> wrote:

Hi Mike,

Not sure if I've seen you since Iceland. Attached is SJR 16- a resolution supporting the AC, the AEC and urging the chair ships to parallel each other. We have Trevor from our office working on the bill. I was hoping to get your thoughts on the draft.

Thanks again,

Jesse Logan

Office of Senator McGuire

Judiciary Committee Chair

Special Committee on the Arctic, Co-Chair

State Capitol, Rm 121

Juneau, AK 99801-1182

907-465-5159 direct

907-465-2995 office



Gana-A'Yoo, Limited

1205 E. Int'l Airport Rd. Suite 101, Anchorage, Alaska 99518 • Phone (907) 569-9599 • Fax (907) 569-9699

26 February 2015

Representative Ben Nageak
State Capitol Room 126
Juneau, AK 99801

Senator Lesil McGuire
State Capitol Room 121
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: SUPPORT FOR THE ARCTIC ECONOMIC COUNCIL

Dear Representative Nageak and Senator McGuire:

On behalf of Gana-A'Yoo, Limited, I am writing this letter of support for the Arctic Economic Council (AEC). The AEC was created under the leadership of the Canadian Chairmanship of the Arctic Council and the U.S. delegation of the AEC is comprised entirely of Alaskans. Four of the six Permanent Participants are also Alaska based, which provides even more meaningful representation for our state within the Arctic Economic Council.

Since the AEC is a newly established entity, the leadership structure and process is currently under review by its member countries. The U.S. has proposed a structure that mirror's the rotation of the chairmanship for the Arctic Council. This means that the U.S. could also potentially assume the chairmanship of the AEC in April; which is the same time the chairmanship of the Arctic Council is handed over from Canada to the U.S.

Acquiring the chairmanship of the AEC for the next two years empowers Alaskans to set the agenda for responsible and sustainable pan-Arctic economic development. Gana-A'Yoo, Limited recognizes the importance and strength of the AEC. We also respectfully encourage the Alaska State Legislature to demonstrate its support of and confidence in the AEC.

Thank you for your consideration.

Betty Huntington
CEO

Cc: Governor Bill Walker
Lt. Governor Byron Mallott
Senate President Kevin Meyer
Senator Donny Olson
House Speaker Mike Chenault



25 February 2015

Representative Ben Nageak
State Capitol Room 126
Juneau, AK 99801

Senator Lesil McGuire
State Capitol Room 121
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: SUPPORT FOR THE ARCTIC ECONOMIC COUNCIL

Dear Representative Nageak and Senator McGuire:

On behalf of the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation I am writing this letter of support for the Arctic Economic Council (AEC). The AEC was created under the leadership of the Canadian Chairmanship of the Arctic Council, and the U.S. delegation of the AEC is comprised entirely of Alaskans. Four of the six Permanent Participants are also Alaska based, which provides even more meaningful representation for our state within the Arctic Economic Council.

Since the AEC is a newly established entity, the leadership structure and process is currently under review by its member countries. The U.S. has proposed a structure that mirror's the rotation of the chairmanship for the Arctic Council. This means that the U.S. could also potentially assume the chairmanship of the AEC in April; which is the same time the chairmanship of the Arctic Council is handed over from Canada to the U.S.

Acquiring the chairmanship of the AEC for the next two years empowers Alaskans to set the agenda for responsible and sustainable pan-Arctic economic development. Arctic Slope Regional Corporation recognizes the importance and strength of the AEC. We also respectfully encourage the Alaska State Legislature to demonstrate its support of and confidence in the AEC.

Thank you for your consideration.

Quyanaqpak,
ARCTIC SLOPE REGIONAL CORPORATION

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rex A. Rock, Sr.', is written over the typed name.

Rex A. Rock, Sr.
President & CEO

cc:

Governor Bill Walker
Lt. Governor Byron Mallott
Senate President Kevin Meyer
Senator Donny Olson
House Speaker Mike Chenault
Representative Bob Herron

Ms. Julie Gourley, U.S. SAO, U.S. Department of
State
Mr. Jimmy Stotts, ICC-Alaska
AEC-Alaska (U.S. AEC Delegation)

Arctic Economic Council – Nils Andreassen, Executive Director, Institute of the North

The Arctic Economic Council (AEC), launched under the Canadian Chairmanship of the Arctic Council, will be one of Canada's more important accomplishments during their Chairmanship, especially as it most closely delivers on the theme of Development for the People of the North. The AEC held its first and formative meeting last September, with three members of Alaska's Arctic business community participating as the U.S. delegation. Each of these individuals bring unique and different experiences and backgrounds to the AEC, and most importantly a firm understanding of Alaska's economy and business climate. I would argue that this, as well as a relationship with Alaska's Arctic, is most important when negotiating with business representatives from the seven other Arctic nations and six Permanent Participants (indigenous organizations). It is not the Arctic only that they must relate to, but how to structure and work toward a stable, competitive and capable economic environment. They must also clearly communicate to the Arctic Council that economic development must not be disembedded from the work of the Sustainable Development Working Group, and that the AEC can play a substantial role in further responding to multiple bottom lines within the Arctic Council.

The Alaska State Legislature's support for this now builds on a 20 year history of the Arctic Council but really a five year recent push to include economic actors because of increased business interest in region. The AEC will be independent of the Arctic Council (not directed by national policy or government agencies) but relied on by the Arctic Council for input into Working Group and Task Force projects, and could produce policy recommendations with implications for the AC or individual states. This is critical for Alaskan interests to be represented.

The AEC and the U.S. delegates can act as Arctic economic champions; articulate the importance of the Arctic and share with national and international audiences; highlight the importance of business in relation to the Arctic; and have a role as a conduit to domestic audiences. Ultimately, the work of the AEC should inform Arctic Council work products and positively increase overall the economic climate of the Arctic by streamlining regulations for efficiency of operations and addressing barriers to access (infrastructure, legal, capital).

These efforts remind us that we are not behind at all when approaching the Arctic. In fact, the U.S. and Alaska are clearly sensitive to increasing change and activity in the Arctic, as well as increasing attention outside the region. These are important and right-timed activities that will further lay the groundwork for a successful future resting on a strong foundation of healthy environment, thriving economies, resilient cultures, and sustainable communities. This is work that has been decades in the making, and Alaskans have been at the forefront of setting current and future priorities. The legislature continues that leadership.

SJR 16
ARCTIC ECONOMIC COUNCIL

WHY SHOULD ALASKA CARE?

- Globally, all our eyes are on the Arctic
 - * Our eyes must be on it too, because
 - * Alaska's Future is in the Arctic
- Changing Conditions will bring new opportunities
 - * Shipping
 - * Tourism
 - * Resource Development
 - * Fisheries
 - * International Trade



WHY IS THE ARCTIC IMPORTANT

- The arctic is changing, with that change comes
 - New opportunities, and
 - New challenges
- There is an estimated 100 billion of private Sector Funds looking for investment opportunities in the Arctic
- Alaska is Americas Arctic



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#alac52354

ARCTIC COUNCIL VS ARCTIC ECONOMIC COUNCIL

AC

- Established by the Ottawa Declaration of 1996
- Function as a high level intergovernmental forum
- Goals to promote cooperation, coordination, and interaction across the Arctic

AEC

- Charged with fostering business development
- Engaging in deeper circumpolar cooperation
- Providing a business perspective to the work of the AC

THE ARCTIC ECONOMIC COUNCIL (AEC) IS CREATED TO:

- Serve as primary forum for interaction between the Arctic Council and the Circumpolar business community
- Provide advice and a business perspective on specific areas in the circumpolar region
- Facilitate Arctic business-to-business and economic development



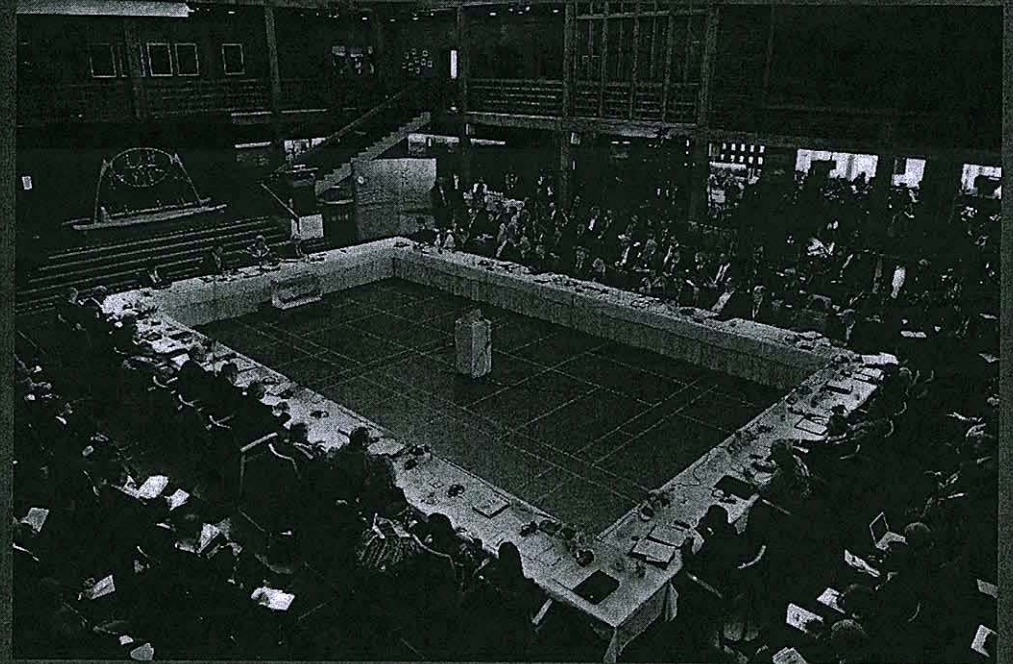
OBJECTIVES OF THE AEC ARE TO:

- Strengthen the Arctic Council by enhancing regional economic cooperation
- Inform the work of AC through the view of business
- Facilitate responsible trade and investment in the Arctic
- Maximize the potential for Arctic economic activities to take into account environmental protection
- Positively impact the communities, lives, and culture of Arctic Indigenous peoples



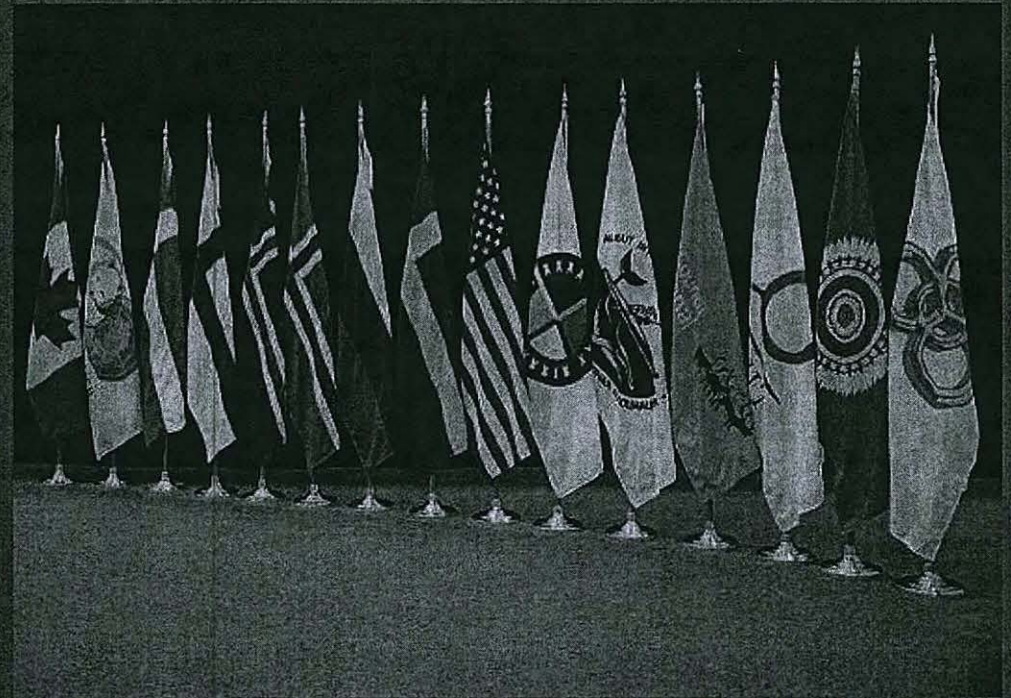
GOVERNANCE

- The AEC is an independent, self-funding body of business representatives
- Established in accordance with recommendation accepted by the Arctic Council Senior Arctic Officials

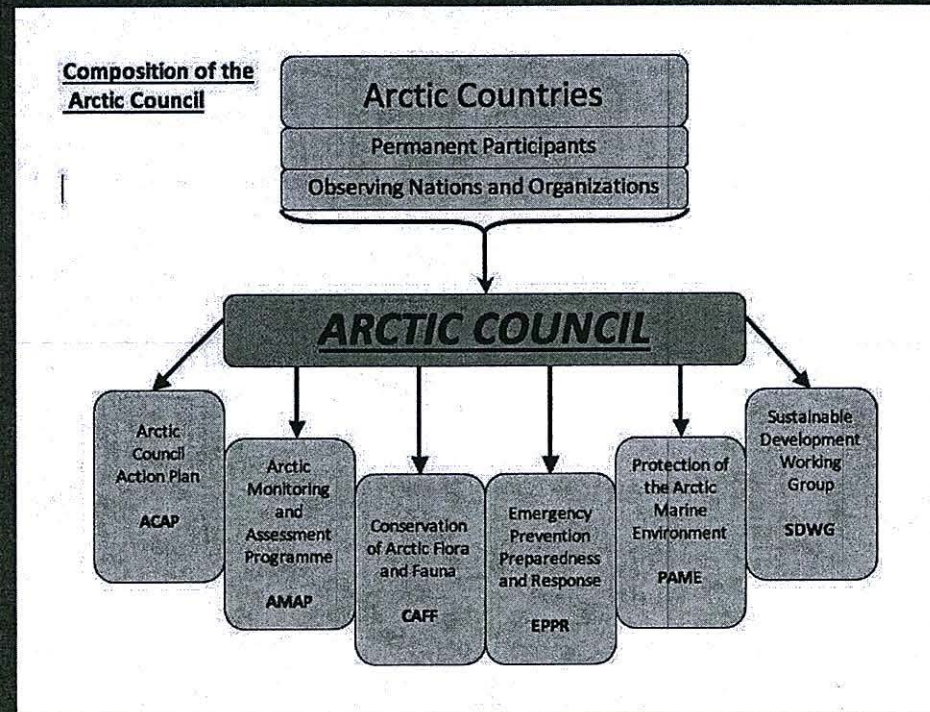


MEETINGS

- The AEC meets twice a year
- In person or through electronic conferencing
- International decisions or consultations may be made through written correspondence or other appropriate means.

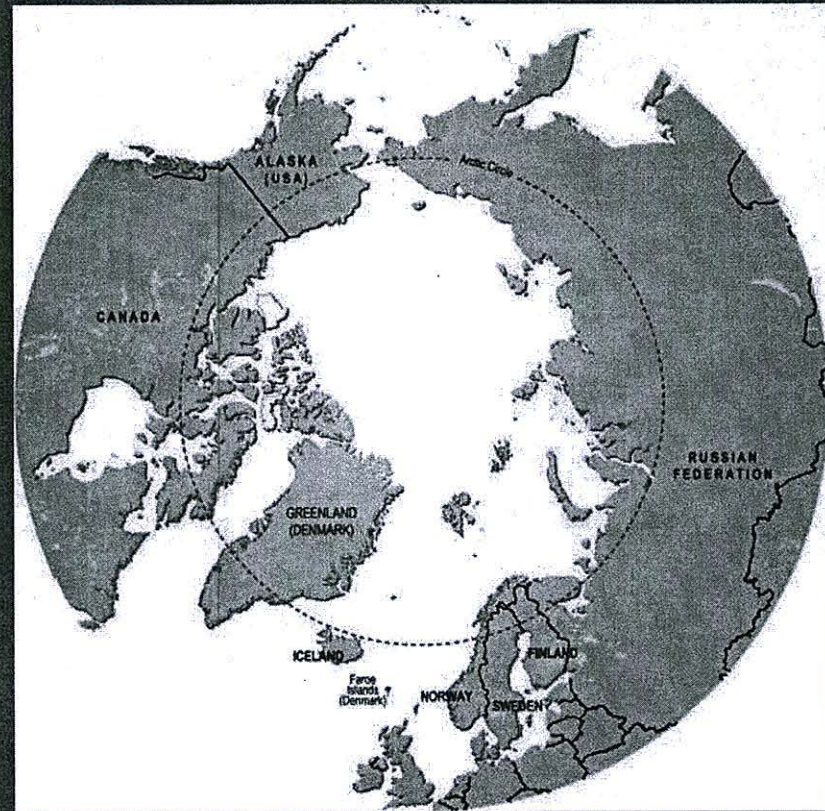


ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE AC



ARCTIC COUNTRIES

- Canada
- Denmark
- Finland
- Iceland
- Norway
- Russia
- Sweden
- United States



PERMANENT PARTICIPANTS

- Arctic Athabaskan Council (AAC)
- Aleut International Association (AIA)
- Gwich'in Council International (GCI)
- Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC)
- Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North (RAIPON)
- Saami Council (SC)



PERMANENT PARTICIPANTS

- Indigenous people
- Alaskans are represented in 4 of the 6 permanent participant organizations



OBSERVING NATIONS & ORGANIZATIONS

Twelve non-arctic countries have been admitted as observers to the Arctic Council:

- France
- Germany
- The Netherlands
- Poland
- Spain
- United Kingdom
- Peoples Republic of China
- Italian Republic
- State of Japan
- Republic of Korea
- Republic of Singapore
- Republic of India

OBSERVING NATIONS & ORGANIZATIONS

Nine Intergovernmental and Inter-Parliamentary Organizations have been given observer:

- International Federation of Red Cross & Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)
- International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- Nordic Council of Ministers (NCM)
- Nordic Environmental Finance Corporation (NEFCO)
- North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission (NAMMCO)
- Standing Committee of the Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region (SCPAR)
- United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UN-ECE)
- United Nations Development Program (UNDP)
- United Nations Environment Program (UNEP)

OBSERVING NATIONS & ORGANIZATIONS

Eleven Non-governmental Organizations are observers in the Arctic Council:

- Advisory Committee on Protection of the Seas (ACOPS)
- Arctic Institute of North America (AINA)
- Association of World Reindeer Herders (AWRH)
- Circumpolar Conservation Union (CCU)
- International Arctic Science Committee (IASC)
- International Arctic Social Sciences Association (IASSA)
- International Union for Circumpolar Health (IUCH)
- International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA)
- Northern Forum (NF)
- University of the Arctic (UArctic)
- World Wide Fund for Nature-Global Arctic Program (WWF)

ARCTIC COUNCIL WORKING GROUPS

- Arctic Council Action Plan (ACAP)
- Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programmer (AMAP)
- Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF)
- Emergency Prevention Preparedness and Response (EPPR)
- Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment (PAME)
- Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG)



SJR 16: ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

- Recognizes the importance of the Arctic Economic Council in providing a forum for residents of the state to give input on policies
- The state of Alaska holds a strategic position as the gateway to the Arctic
- Alaska will benefit from the efforts of the AEC
- Seeks to empower the United States economic council delegation which consists entirely of residents of this state

CONCLUSION

- The Alaska State legislature expresses its confidence in and support for the AEC
- The Alaska State legislature respectfully request that the U.S. Congress express support for AEC
- For the Chair of the AEC to be a resident of this state
- For the Structure of the Arctic Economic Council leadership to mirror the rotation of the chair of the Arctic Council