

SJR

16

<TARGET><BILL>SJR 16</BILL><SUBJECT>SJR
16</SUBJECT><COMM>SARC29</COMM></TARGET>



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](tel:907-465-5159) direct

[907-465-2995](tel:907-465-2995) office

LISA MURKOWSKI
ALASKA

COMMITTEES:

ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES
CHAIRMAN

APPROPRIATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERIOR,
ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES
CHAIRMAN

HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR,
AND PENSIONS

INDIAN AFFAIRS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0203
(202) 224-6665
(202) 224-5301 FAX

February 24, 2015

510 L STREET, SUITE 600
ANCHORAGE, AK 99501-1956
(907) 271-3735

101 12TH AVENUE, ROOM 329
FAIRBANKS, AK 99701-6278
(907) 456-0233

800 GLACIER AVENUE, SUITE 101
JUNEAU, AK 99801
(907) 586-7277

805 FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 105
KENAI, AK 99611-9104
(907) 283-5808

1900 FIRST AVENUE, SUITE 225
KETCHIKAN, AK 99901-6059
(907) 225-6880

851 EAST WESTPOINT DRIVE, SUITE 307
WASILLA, AK 99654-7142
(907) 376-7665

The Honorable David Balton
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Oceans and Fisheries
Bureau of Oceans and International Environment and Scientific Affairs
U.S. Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Ambassador Balton:

As you prepare for the Senior Arctic Official's meeting in Whitehorse, Yukon next week, I ask for your consideration of additional pan-Arctic projects that would fall under the United States' Arctic Council agenda theme of "Improving Economic and Living Conditions." In reviewing the United States' proposed agenda, I am concerned that there is an alarming lack of projects that are geared toward actual economic or resource development.

I note and appreciate the State Department's support for the *EALLU-Indigenous Youth, Climate Change and Food Culture* initiative within the Sustainable Development Working Group to promote a food-related business development with the Kawerak Reindeer Herders Association and the University of Alaska Fairbanks. I urge the Administration to support and advocate for additional projects like this and ask that you and your staff review the Alaska Arctic Policy Commission's Final Report recommendations for economic and resource development (page 17), specifically recommendations 1(b) with regard to resource production-related revenue sharing, 1(d) promoting entrepreneurship and enterprise development, and 1(f) relating to economic returns from maritime and fisheries activities. I recognize that time is short leading up to the SAO meeting, however, I strongly urge you to direct your staff, with their extensive knowledge of the Policy Commission's report, to present additional initiatives that would benefit those who live in the Arctic and promote actual economic development.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter. I look forward to working with you on these and other important Arctic related issues during the United States' chairmanship of the Arctic Council.

Sincerely,


Lisa Murkowski
United States Senator



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

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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

29th Alaska State Legislature

Session:

State Capitol, Room 121
Juneau, AK 99801
Phone: (907) 465-2995
Fax: (907) 465-6592



Interim:

716 W 4th Avenue, Room 515
Anchorage, AK 99501
Phone: (907) 269-0250
Fax: (907) 269-0249

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.



Gana-A'Yoo, Limited

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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

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.

PRESS RELEASE

ALASKA  **MAJORITY SENATE**

SENATOR LESIL MCGUIRE

State Capitol Room 121 Juneau, AK 99801 | 907.465.2995 | Senator.Lesil.McGuire@akleg.gov

For Immediate Release: April 1, 2015

Senate Unanimously Supports Arctic Economic Council

SJR 16 expresses support for the Arctic Economic Council and requests that an Alaskan serve as chair

JUNEAU – The Alaska State Senate unanimously passed a resolution today supporting the Arctic Economic Council. [Senate Joint Resolution 16](#), sponsored by Senator Lesil McGuire (R-Anchorage), urges the U.S. Congress to stand with Alaska in its support for the Arctic Economic Council and requests that an Alaskan serve as its chair. The resolution also expresses support for the Arctic Economic Council Leadership to mirror the rotation of the chair of the Arctic Council.

“Alaska is what makes the United States an Arctic nation,” said Senator McGuire. “With all eyes on the Arctic, we’re hoping to use this opportunity to focus on the economic and development opportunities for Alaskans, the people of the north.”

The Arctic Council was established in 1996 to promote cooperation, coordination, and interaction across the Arctic. In 2013, the Arctic Council created Arctic Economic Council to serve as its primary forum for interaction with the circumpolar business community. Its goals include enhancing regional economic cooperation, informing the work of the Arctic Council through a commerce perspective, and positively impacting the communities, lives, and cultures of Arctic indigenous peoples.

“We’re hoping to see more development in the Arctic to fill up the Trans-Alaska pipeline again, create energy independence for America, and reclaim Alaska’s place as a major energy supplier,” said Senator McGuire. “There’s also an additional \$100 billion just waiting to be invested in mining, shipping, and tourism in the circumpolar region.”

The resolution requests that an Alaskan be appointed chair of the Arctic Economic Council. All three of the U.S. delegates, Lori Davey, Bruce Harland, and Gail Schubert, who attended the founding organization meeting were Alaskans and Alaskans are represented in four of the six permanent participant organization.

“America has been behind in Arctic policy, but we’re catching up and taking over in the way that Alaskans do,” said Senator McGuire. “Alaskans are the ones leading the way, so we’d like to have an Alaskan at the table as chair.”

The U.S. will become chair of the Arctic Council later this year.

Click [here](#) to view Senator McGuire’s speech supporting the passage of SJR 16.

For more information, please contact [Trevor Gutierrez](#) in Senator McGuire’s office at (907) 465-2995.

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PNWER

North American Arctic Leaders Forum

March 5, 2015

The Arctic Economic Council

Drue Pearce
Senior Policy Advisor
Crowell & Moring LLP

Arctic Council Chairmanship Hand-off

The Canadian Chairmanship (2013-2015) theme is “Development for the People of the North” with focus on responsible Arctic resource development, safe Arctic shipping and sustainable circumpolar communities. Included in their initiatives were:

- Establish the Arctic Economic Council to foster economic development.
- Establish guidelines for sustainable tourism and cruise-ship operations.
- Continue to encourage development of a Polar Code.

The U. S. Chairmanship (2015-2017) theme is “One Arctic with Shared Opportunities, Challenges and Responsibilities” with initiatives that fall within three thematic pillars:

1. Improving Arctic Ocean Safety, Security and Stewardship,
2. Addressing the Impacts of Climate Change, and
3. Improving Economic and Living Conditions of Arctic Residents.

Arctic Economic Council

- Organizational meeting held in Iqaluit, Nunavut September 1-3, 2014.
- Member nations and Permanent Participants have each named up to 3 Business Representatives.
- U.S. Business Representatives were not chosen by the State Department. Rather, with SAO consent, they were chosen by the Executive Committee of the Alaska State Chamber in collaboration with the Cochairs of the Alaska Arctic Policy Commission.
- AEC will be governed by 42 member Board and 4 member Executive Committee. Initial Executive Committee: Canada (chair), Finland, ICC (Alaska), Russia.
- Norway has offered to host the Secretariat.
- Board will decide how to incorporate other businesses. Focus is on SMEs and VSMEs and work is expected to be completed by working groups.
- <http://arcticeconomiccouncil.com/>

Arctic Economic Council Functions

The Arctic Economic Council is created to:

- Serve as a primary forum for interaction between the Arctic Council and the circumpolar business community;
- Provide advice and a business perspective on specific areas of cooperation in the circumpolar region and the activities of the Arctic Council; and
- Facilitate Arctic business-to-business and economic development, as well as sharing of best practices, technological solutions, standards, and other pertinent information.

Objectives of the Arctic Economic Council

- Strengthen the Arctic Council by enhancing regional economic cooperation;
- Inform the work of the Arctic Council through the view of business;
- Facilitate and foster business opportunities in a manner that advances sustainable development of the Arctic;
- Facilitate responsible trade and investment in the Arctic;
- Maximize the potential for Arctic economic activities to take into account environmental protection;
- Contribute to a stable, predictable and transparent business climate;
- Positively impact the communities, lives and culture of Arctic Indigenous peoples; and
- Include in its activities those with an interest in and activities concerning circumpolar business and economic development.

Arctic Economic Council Working Groups

The Arctic Economic Council's work will be driven by working groups established on particular sectors and overarching themes. Their work will be action oriented and focus on solutions that drive Arctic business forward in a responsible and sustainable manner.

Three Initial Working Groups

Stewardship in the Arctic

Marine Transportation and Infrastructure

Responsible Resource Development

Identified Working Group Projects to Date

- Stewardship in the Arctic proposal by the Saami Council will be led by Tara Sweeney, ASRC.
- Maritime Transportation proposal by the Danish Shipowner's Association and Aleut International Association will be led by Tero Vauraste, Arctia Shipping and Evgeny Ambrosov, SOVCOMFLOT.
- Responsible Resource Development proposal by AEC Canada will be led by Tom Paddon, Baffinland Iron Mines.
- Interactions Between Industries in the Arctic proposal by AEC Norway will be integrated into the Responsible Resource Development proposal.
- Business Scenarios 2040 proposal by AEC Norway, lead not yet determined.
- Renewable Energy proposal by AEC Canada still under development.

PNWER

North American Arctic Leaders Forum

Thanks for your interest!

For more information, contact

Drue Pearce

Senior Policy Advisor

Crowell & Moring LLP

1029 West Third Avenue, Suite 550

Anchorage, Alaska 99501

907.865.2600