

STATE OF ALASKA

THE LEGISLATURE

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Encouraging the President of the United States to select Alaska as the site for a future summit meeting between the United States and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

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

WHEREAS Alaska is the only state in the United States with two international borders, and is the most northern, western, and eastern state in the United States; and

WHEREAS Alaska is the only state with a Soviet border, and is geographically closer to the U.S.S.R. than any other state, separated by only 2.5 miles at the closest point; and

WHEREAS the Native people of Alaska share a common history, heritage, and culture with, and many are related to, citizens of the U.S.S.R.; and

WHEREAS Alaska has been in the forefront of opening up trade and cultural relations with the U.S.S.R., and Alaska has been the site of many business, scientific, cultural, and governmental exchanges between citizens of the United States and of the U.S.S.R.; and

WHEREAS Alaska was once Russian territory; and

WHEREAS both Alaska and the U.S.S.R. share long Arctic and Pacific borders; and

WHEREAS the northern regions of the globe and the Pacific basin are increasing in prominence and importance to the world economy and environment as the world enters the next century; and

WHEREAS during the 1987 summit between former President Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachev, the two leaders exchanged views on how to encourage more contact and cooperation between their countries on issues relating to the Arctic, and they

expressed support for the development of bilateral and regional cooperation among the Arctic countries, including coordination of scientific research and environmental protection; and

WHEREAS Alaska would be an excellent site for a summit between the United States and the U.S.S.R., and Alaskans would like to have the opportunity to host a summit between President Bush and General Secretary Gorbachev;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature requests the President of the United States to consider selecting Alaska as the site of a future summit meeting between the United States and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable George Bush, President of the United States; the Honorable Mikhail S. Gorbachev, General Secretary of the U.S.S.R; the Honorable James A. Baker, III, U.S. Secretary of State; the Honorable Eduard A. Shevardnadze, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R; the Honorable Claiborne Pell, Chair of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations; the Honorable Dante B. Fascell, Chair of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.