

STATE OF ALASKA

THE LEGISLATURE

1990

Source

Legislative
Resolve No.

SJR 71

93



Encouraging Savoonga, Alaska, and Sereniki, U.S.S.R., to be sister cities.

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

WHEREAS the residents of Savoonga on St. Lawrence Island in Alaska and Sereniki in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics are closely related culturally, ethnically, and socially; and

WHEREAS the residents of both cities speak the same Native language, which is Siberian Yupik, and live a subsistence lifestyle based on whaling, fishing, berry-picking, and walrus hunting; and

WHEREAS both cities place great emphasis on traditional Native values, including honoring and learning from their elders; and

WHEREAS, until the Cold War intervened, the residents of the two cities intermarried and traded with each other; and

WHEREAS, now that the Cold War has thawed, becoming sister cities would help the two cities reestablish their communication and trade;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature encourages the City of Savoonga on St. Lawrence Island in Alaska and the City of Sereniki in the U.S.S.R. to become sister cities in order to help them reestablish the communication and trade between the two cities that were halted by the Cold War.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the City of Sereniki, U.S.S.R.; and to the Honorable Jerry Wongittilin, Mayor of the City of Savoonga, Alaska.