

# STATE OF ALASKA

## THE LEGISLATURE

1991

Source

SCS CSHJR 20(STA)

Legislative  
Resolve No.

22



Encouraging the United States and Soviet national governments to establish consulates in Alaska and the Soviet Far East.

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

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

**WHEREAS** Alaska and the Soviet Union share a common history and heritage and many Native people of both countries are related by blood and speak a common language; and

**WHEREAS** regular contact between Alaska and the Soviet Far East resumed about three years ago following more than 40 years of separation; and

**WHEREAS** citizens of Alaska and the Soviet Far East are at the forefront of opening trade, scientific, and cultural relations between the United States and the U.S.S.R. and Alaska and Soviet air carriers make frequent flights across the Bering Strait; and

**WHEREAS** the growing number of visits by Alaskans and Soviets to each other's countries and an increasing number of trade, tourist, scientific, and cultural ventures require visas and other approvals by both national governments; and

**WHEREAS** there is a considerable burden on and delay for those seeking to travel and

pursue joint ventures because Soviets must personally travel to Moscow, the U.S. Embassy in Moscow is cutting back on approvals, and the Soviet Embassy in San Francisco processes an estimated 5,000 visa applications monthly;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature requests the United States and U.S.S.R. national governments to establish as soon as possible a U.S. consulate in the Soviet Far East and a Soviet consulate in Alaska to more quickly and efficiently process the required approvals for Alaska-Soviet exchanges and visits, and to further encourage the warming relations between our two countries.

**COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable George Bush, President of the United States; the Honorable Mikhail S. Gorbachev, President of the Soviet Union; the Honorable James A. Baker, III, U.S. Secretary of State; the Honorable Alexander Bessmertnyk, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R.; the Honorable James Matlock, U.S. Ambassador to the Soviet Union; the Honorable Viktor Kamenev, Soviet Consulate General in San Francisco; the Honorable Gueorgui S. Markossov, Consular for Intergovernmental Affairs, Soviet Embassy in Washington, D.C.; 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.