

STATE OF ALASKA
THE LEGISLATURE

1995

Source
HJR 39

Legislative
Resolve No.
21



Relating to the Northern Sea Route.

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

WHEREAS Alaska is strategically located on the Northern Sea Route between trading partners on the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans; and

WHEREAS Alaska has many resources for which there are markets among the nations on the Atlantic Ocean; and

WHEREAS studies by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and others predict increases in commercial shipments via the Northern Sea Route through Alaska waters; and

WHEREAS, though the technology of Arctic ship design is advanced, the present fleet of Arctic cargo ships has limited capacity to carry Alaska or international cargoes; and

WHEREAS Arctic research by the United States has focused on questions of ecological balance and climate change and has directed less effort toward factors that directly affect the cost of Arctic shipping; and

WHEREAS Alaskans living along the great rivers of the state and along the Arctic coast will benefit from advances in Arctic technology;

BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the Governor is respectfully requested to direct the Alaska Department of Commerce and Economic Development to

aggressively pursue improved relations with Alaska's present trading partners and to seek new markets and trading partners in Russia, other Arctic nations, and Europe; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Alaska is respectfully requested to consolidate its Arctic research and development programs so that limited funds are applied efficiently with a special emphasis on the technical and economic aspects of waterborne commerce in Arctic waters and along the Northern Sea Route; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor is respectfully requested to direct the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities to continue its cooperation with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in improving the competitiveness of Alaska's ports and with the Federal Highway Administration in developing intermodal facilities that bring Alaskan products to tidewater; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is respectfully requested to perform a comprehensive review of the accuracy of nautical charts of Alaska's Arctic waters and the approaches to the Northern Sea Route and to accomplish those surveys that are necessary to improve nautical charts to the highest practical standard of accuracy and utility; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Coast Guard is respectfully requested to perform a comprehensive review of aids to navigation that exist in Arctic waters of Alaska and availability of other services that improve the safety of people, ships, and cargoes en route, and to make improvements that will enhance these safety measures to the highest practical standard; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is respectfully requested to perform an investigation of the prospective navigation improvements along the Arctic coast of Alaska and along the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers, with a view toward the efficient supply of fuel and other supplies to rural Alaska communities located along these waterways.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable D. James Baker, Administrator, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce; Admiral Robert E. Kramek, Commandant, U.S. Coast Guard; Lt. General Arthur Williams, Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; 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.