

**STATE OF ALASKA
THE LEGISLATURE**

2001

**Legislative
Resolve No.**

26

Source

SCS CSHJR 27(STA)



Supporting the erection of monuments in Alaska, Russia, and Canada to commemorate the World War II lend-lease program between the United States and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

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

WHEREAS President Franklin Delano Roosevelt expressed a desire for close collaboration with the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics against Germany and its allies; and

WHEREAS the federal Lend-Lease Act was enacted during World War II and designated Ladd Field in Fairbanks, Alaska, now known as Fort Wainwright, as the exchange point for war materials between the United States and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics from 1942 to 1945; and

WHEREAS, under the lend-lease program, roughly 8,000 aircraft hauling tons of materials and supplies were flown nearly 9,000 miles from Great Falls, Montana, across Canada and Alaska to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, with stops at Edmonton and Whitehorse in Canada, at Fairbanks, Galena, and Nome in Alaska, and at Yakutsk, Krasnoyarsk, and Novosibirsk in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics; and

WHEREAS many Alaska citizens worked together with Soviet citizens on this cooperative program, and soldiers and their families from both countries made considerable sacrifices to serve their countries; and

WHEREAS the cooperative lend-lease program demonstrated that two nations could set aside their differing political views and cultural values to achieve a common, mutually beneficial goal; and

WHEREAS the Alaska-Siberia Research Center plans to erect bronze monuments in Fairbanks and Nome, Alaska, in Russia, and in Canada to commemorate the lend-lease program; and

WHEREAS this project will contribute to the further understanding of Russian-American relations and will provide new data on the World War II period in Alaska; and

WHEREAS the proposed monuments will highlight the strategic and social importance of Alaska then and today and will seek to preserve the memories of those Alaska citizens who shaped and participated in the lend-lease program; and

WHEREAS the Alaska-Siberia Research Center will be a recipient of funds for the project and will be responsible for all financial and technical aspects of the project;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature supports the Alaska-Siberia Research Center project of erecting monuments in Fairbanks and Nome, Alaska, in Russia, and in Canada to commemorate the lend-lease program between the United States and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics during World War II.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Vladimir Putin, President, Russian Federation; the Honorable Jean Chretien, Prime Minister of Canada; the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United States; the Honorable Colin Powell, United States Secretary of State; the Honorable Anthony Principi, United States Secretary of Veterans 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.