

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 33

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVE TUCK

Introduced: 2/9/18

Referred:

A RESOLUTION

1 **Urging the Alaska delegation in Congress to pursue the establishment of an Arctic naval**
2 **station; supporting the increase in defensive capabilities in the Arctic region; and**
3 **encouraging the development of critical Arctic infrastructure.**

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

5 **WHEREAS** Alaska is the only state in the nation that has land bordering the Arctic
6 Ocean; and

7 **WHEREAS** the retreat of Arctic sea ice is increasing the seasonal navigability of the
8 Arctic Ocean, which has resulted in an influx of traffic and activity in the circumpolar Arctic;
9 and

10 **WHEREAS** the increased navigability of Arctic routes has the potential to reliably
11 decrease shipping distances of intercontinental vessels by as much as 40 percent in the
12 coming decades; and

13 **WHEREAS** the control of access to newly opening Arctic waterways is becoming an
14 objective for nations in the region; and

15 **WHEREAS** the other seven Arctic nations have been very proactive in addressing the

1 changing situation in the Arctic and have begun to assert their interests in the region; and

2 **WHEREAS** the Russian Federation has recently established the Arctic Joint Strategic
3 Command to assert its long-term military strategy in the Arctic region; and

4 **WHEREAS** the Russian Federation has constructed as many as 40 icebreakers, 14
5 airfields, and 16 deepwater ports in the region; and

6 **WHEREAS** the United States has been very inactive in addressing the changing
7 situation in the Arctic region; and

8 **WHEREAS** the United States possesses only two operating icebreaking vessels, none
9 of which is stationed in this state; and

10 **WHEREAS** vessels with icebreaking capabilities may operate in any environment,
11 but ships without that capability cannot operate in an Arctic environment without an
12 icebreaker escort; and

13 **WHEREAS** the United States has an extremely limited capability to respond to
14 medical emergencies that may occur as a result of increased activity in the region; and

15 **WHEREAS** the United States has no means of asserting itself in the Arctic Ocean or
16 maintaining domain awareness along its northernmost flank; and

17 **WHEREAS** the extreme weather conditions in the Arctic increase the amount of time
18 needed to complete large infrastructure projects in the region; and

19 **WHEREAS** the potential for energy discovery in the Arctic region may produce new
20 investment, infrastructural development, and other economic opportunities;

21 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature recognizes that the increased
22 activity in the Arctic region is becoming a national security concern for the nation; and be it

23 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature recognizes the potential
24 for economic development in the Arctic; and be it

25 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature recognizes the urgency of
26 developing key infrastructure and defense capabilities, considering the investments other
27 nations have committed to the region as well as the increased amount of time needed for those
28 types of projects because of the extreme weather of the region; and be it

29 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the Alaska
30 delegation in Congress to pursue the establishment of a United States naval station in the
31 Arctic as well as the development of critical infrastructure that is necessary to improve

1 emergency response capabilities in the region; and be it

2 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature calls on its Congressional
3 delegation to advocate for the security of the nation's northernmost flank by increasing the
4 military and emergency response capabilities in the Arctic region.

5 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Donald J. Trump, President
6 of the United States; the Honorable Paul D. Ryan, Speaker of the U.S. House of
7 Representatives; the Honorable Orrin Hatch, President pro tempore of the U.S. Senate; the
8 Honorable Jim Mattis, United States Secretary of Defense; the Honorable Ryan Zinke, United
9 States Secretary of the Interior; and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Dan
10 Sullivan, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the
11 Alaska delegation in Congress.