

**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 11**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

**BY REPRESENTATIVE SADDLER**

**Introduced: 3/13/13**

**Referred:**

**A RESOLUTION**

1 **Commemorating the 30th anniversary of President Ronald Reagan's address to the**  
2 **nation concerning the Strategic Defense Initiative, recognizing the strategic importance**  
3 **of Alaska in the missile interceptor defense system, and urging the United States to**  
4 **deploy the number of ground-based interceptors originally intended at Fort Greely.**

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

6 **WHEREAS**, on March 23, 1983, President Ronald Reagan delivered a televised  
7 address to the nation regarding the nuclear and ballistic missile threat posed by the Soviet  
8 Union and appealed to the American people to support the development of new technologies  
9 to counter this threat; and

10 **WHEREAS** March 23, 2013, marks the 30th anniversary of this landmark address;  
11 and

12 **WHEREAS** President Reagan believed the nation's security to be based on  
13 preparedness and a national willingness to meet all threats and supported military strength as  
14 a means of deterring aggression and preserving peace; and

15 **WHEREAS** President Reagan envisioned a defensive, non-nuclear capability to

1 intercept and destroy strategic nuclear missiles before the missiles could reach the United  
2 States or allies of the United States; and

3 **WHEREAS** President Reagan envisioned the missile defense system as a way to  
4 significantly reduce incentives an adversary might have to threaten or attack the United States  
5 or an ally of the United States; and

6 **WHEREAS**, through the efforts of dedicated Americans and allies who have  
7 championed the pursuit of peace through strength and who have surmounted the immense  
8 technical hurdles to develop ballistic missile defense technologies and systems to protect our  
9 nation, our allies, and our vital overseas interests, President Reagan's vision has been realized;  
10 and

11 **WHEREAS** Alaska possesses abundant natural assets, including energy, minerals,  
12 and human resources, vital to the prosperity and national security of the United States; and

13 **WHEREAS**, in 1997, the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requested President  
14 Clinton to include Alaska and Hawaii in every national intelligence estimate of missile threats  
15 to the United States and urged the president to ensure that Alaska be protected from and be  
16 able to defend against missile attacks with the same degree of assurance provided to all other  
17 states; and

18 **WHEREAS** the Ground-Based Midcourse Defense System and its effective Ground-  
19 Based Interceptor missile currently deployed at Fort Greely, Alaska, and Vandenberg Air  
20 Force Base, California, together with the Missile Defense Integration and Operations Center  
21 in Colorado Springs, Colorado, function as key components of the integrated United States  
22 Ballistic Missile Defense System; and

23 **WHEREAS** the Ground-Based Midcourse Defense System serves to defend the  
24 United States, including Hawaii and Alaska, against long-range ballistic missiles; and

25 **WHEREAS** the Alaska National Guard's 49th Missile Defense Battalion, as the first  
26 line of defense in the missile interceptor defense system, protects the nation against a North  
27 Korean missile attack; and

28 **WHEREAS** the nation's missile defenses were successfully put on alert in response to  
29 the July 2006 and other North Korean missile launches, including in December 2012; and

30 **WHEREAS** our nation's integrated ballistic missile defense system represents a key  
31 element of our national defense, provides a vital deterrent against aggression, and preserves

1 freedom and peace;

2 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature recognizes the unique vision  
3 and tireless efforts of President Ronald Reagan to promote peace and security; and be it

4 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature recognizes the immense  
5 value of the research, development, and investment inspired by President Reagan in his  
6 March 23, 1983, appeal to the American people to change the course of human history by  
7 pursuing the robust capabilities necessary to protect and preserve our way of life; and be it

8 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature recognizes and expresses  
9 support for President Reagan's refusal to accept the vulnerability of the United States to  
10 missile attack, his unflinching commitment to ensuring the United States would achieve its  
11 national security and foreign policy goals from a position of strength, and his firm belief that  
12 the United States would never be secure if the nation's enemies were able to attack from  
13 space; and be it

14 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature recognizes the strategic  
15 role Alaska and Alaskans play in the missile interceptor defense system as a first line of  
16 defense, and especially the role played by the Alaska National Guard's 49th Missile Defense  
17 Battalion; and be it

18 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature commemorates the 30th  
19 anniversary of President Reagan's address to the nation on the subject of the Strategic Defense  
20 Initiative; and be it

21 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State legislature urges the United States to  
22 deploy the number of ground-based interceptors originally intended at Fort Greely and to  
23 complete research, development, and deployment of complementary theater-based missile  
24 defenses and to deploy the strategic ground, sea, air, and space-based systems envisioned by  
25 President Reagan in his March 23, 1983, address to deter current missile threats.

26 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of  
27 the United States; the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Mark Begich, U.S.  
28 Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska  
29 delegation in Congress; all other members of the 113th United States Congress; the presiding  
30 officers of the legislatures for each of the other 49 states; General Charles H. Jacoby, Jr.,  
31 Commander of the North American Aerospace Defense Command; and Major General

- 1 Thomas Katkus, Adjutant General of the Alaska National Guard and commissioner of military
- 2 and veterans' affairs.