

**NORTHWEST ARCTIC BOROUGH ASSEMBLY  
AND NORTH SLOPE BOROUGH ASSEMBLY  
JOINT RESOLUTION A-2023**

**A JOINT RESOLUTION APPROVING COLLABORATIVE  
WORK ON ARCTIC ISSUES AND HIGHLIGHTING  
COMMON GOALS IN OUR VISIONS FOR THE ARCTIC.**

**WHEREAS:** the North Slope Borough and Northwest Arctic Borough are the two northernmost home-rule regional governments in Alaska established to exercise our right for local control and self-determination for our people and communities; and

**WHEREAS:** The North Slope Borough and the Northwest Arctic Borough have a long history of collaboration and partnership; and

**WHEREAS:** The North Slope Borough and the Northwest Arctic Borough share the Iñupiaq culture, language, family ties, subsistence resources, and traditions that have been developed by our people for millennia; and

**WHEREAS:** The North Slope Borough and the Northwest Arctic Borough are adjacent to each other and share the resources of the Bering, Beaufort, and Chukchi seas, river systems, and the terrestrial environment; and

**WHEREAS:** The United States is an Arctic Nation only because of Alaska and the vast majority of Arctic lands are geographically contained within the boundaries of the North Slope Borough and the Northwest Arctic Borough; and

**WHEREAS:** The Arctic is an integral part of our Iñupiat identity and is inextricably tied to Iñupiat history, culture, and prosperity; and

**WHEREAS:** The search for shorter shipping routes and natural resources has increased international interest in the Arctic, creating the need for increased Arctic maritime infrastructure and ports; and

**WHEREAS:** Arctic Nations anticipate the development of new northern shipping routes, commercial fisheries, continued mineral extraction, oil and gas exploration, scientific research, and tourism; and

**WHEREAS:** The Arctic is of significant geopolitical interest to the United States and the world; and

**WHEREAS:** Both the North Slope Borough and the Northwest Arctic Borough lack adequate infrastructure to address the needs of increased Arctic activities that promote our national security, sustainable economic opportunity, and a resilient Arctic ecosystem that supports our traditional way of life; and

**WHEREAS:** Much of the region's existing infrastructure is dilapidating due to coastal erosion and permafrost thaw; and

**WHEREAS:** The changes in the Arctic impact both Boroughs and will continue to impact our regions for the foreseeable future; and

**WHEREAS:** Our regions need to strengthen collaboration and promote economic and resource development while balancing subsistence and cultural needs in order to cultivate both healthy communities and a healthy environment; and

**WHEREAS:** Over the long term, both Boroughs could benefit economically from increased Arctic activity, but we must continue to address the challenges and opportunities of a changing Arctic in coordination with our Tribes and Alaska Native Corporations.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** That the North Slope Borough and the Northwest Arctic Borough agree to draft a joint Arctic vision and develop common priorities by August 2023; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the North Slope Borough and the Northwest Arctic Borough agree to work collaboratively on mutually beneficial Arctic issues, including but not limited to the following matters:

- a) Increasing awareness of and advocacy for the Arctic and the region's needs, our resource rights, and our access rights to our traditional homelands; and
- b) Working with all levels of government, tribes, Native corporations, industry, and nongovernmental organizations as the leaders in Arctic decision-making where we are ethically and equitably engaged; and
- c) Securing opportunities to participate meaningfully as a leading partner in the development of state, federal, and international Arctic policies, providing an avenue to engage Indigenous knowledge, expertise, and self-determination; and

- d) Strengthening support for and collaboration with the Inuit Circumpolar Council, and jointly advocating for national boards and commissions to promote inclusion of the region's Indigenous Peoples; and
- e) Encouraging the federal government to increase the presence of the United States Coast Guard and other appropriate national defense agencies in the regions; and
- f) Ensuring our local voice takes priority with decision making and control of our lands, waters, wildlife, resources, and future; and
- g) Requiring marine research vessels to adhere to general compliance and registration requirements.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 7<sup>th</sup> DAY OF April 2023.**



**Nathan Hadley, Jr.**  
NAB Assembly President



**Vernon A. Edwardsen**  
NSB Assembly President

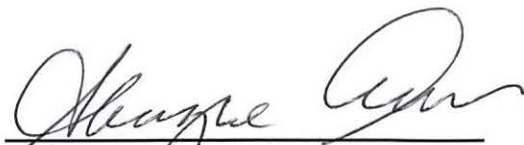


**Dickie Moto, Sr.**  
NAB Mayor



**Harry K. Brower, Jr.**  
NSB Mayor

**SIGNED AND ATTESTED TO THIS 7<sup>th</sup> DAY OF April 2023.**



**Shayne Schaeffer**  
NAB Clerk



**Elaine Solomon**  
NSB Clerk

**ATTEST:**

**ATTEST:**

