

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 6

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATOR TOBIN

Introduced: 1/18/23

Referred: State Affairs

A RESOLUTION

1 **Honoring the Alaska-Korea relationship; and celebrating the 70th anniversary of the**
2 **Mutual Defense Treaty between the United States and the Republic of Korea, the 70th**
3 **anniversary of the Korean Armistice Agreement, and the 120th anniversary of the first**
4 **Korean immigration to the United States.**

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

6 **WHEREAS** 2023 marks 70 years since the signing of the Mutual Defense Treaty
7 between the United States and the Republic of Korea, signed on October 1, 1953, and entered
8 into force November 17, 1954; and

9 **WHEREAS** 2023 marks 70 years since the signing of the Korean Armistice
10 Agreement, ending the hostilities of the Korean War; and

11 **WHEREAS** 2023 marks 120 years since the first immigration of Koreans to the
12 United States, when the SS Gaelic brought the first Korean immigrants to Hawaii; and

13 **WHEREAS** the United States and the Republic of Korea have longstanding ties
14 through trade, military cooperation, tourism, immigration, and many other areas; and

15 **WHEREAS** the United States and the Republic of Korea have been developing a

1 steadfast partnership, anchored in shared values and interests, tackling the most pressing
2 regional and global challenges, thereby evolving into a global comprehensive strategic
3 alliance; and

4 **WHEREAS** the United States and the Republic of Korea are major trade partners,
5 with about \$169,000,000,000 of trade annually between the two nations in raw materials,
6 including crude oil and natural gas, and in finished goods, such as automobiles and
7 semiconductors; and

8 **WHEREAS** this state and the Republic of Korea engage in major trade, with about
9 \$2,300,000,000 of trade annually between the state and the Republic of Korea, including
10 minerals, fish, and computer products; and

11 **WHEREAS** some large Korean companies operate in the state, including major air
12 cargo carriers Korean Air and Asiana Airlines that operate at the Ted Stevens Anchorage
13 International Airport; and

14 **WHEREAS**, each year, over 20,000,000 Korean tourists visit the United States and
15 17,000,000 tourists visit the Republic of Korea, contributing substantially to the economies of
16 each country; and

17 **WHEREAS** 7,000 Koreans and Korean Americans live in the state, contributing to
18 the rich history and culture of the state; and

19 **WHEREAS** the cities of Anchorage, Alaska, and Incheon, Republic of Korea, have
20 been sister cities since 1986, acknowledging the ties between the state and the Republic of
21 Korea and encouraging cultural and economic exchange; and

22 **WHEREAS**, since 2008, the state has celebrated Korea-Alaska Friendship Day on
23 June 20, acknowledging the longstanding ties, economic and cultural exchange, and
24 friendship between the state and the Republic of Korea;

25 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature recognizes the strength and
26 longevity of the relationship between the state and the Republic of Korea as premier partners
27 in the Pacific region; and be it

28 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature acknowledges the
29 important anniversaries marking 70 years since the signing of the Mutual Defense Treaty and
30 the Korean Armistice Agreement, and 120 years since the first immigration of Koreans to the
31 United States; and be it

1 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature eagerly looks forward to
2 the continuation of the close relationship between the United States and the Republic of Korea
3 and anticipates a growing relationship for years to come.

4 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, President
5 of the United States; the Honorable Yoon Suk Yeol, President of the Republic of Korea; the
6 Honorable Han Duck-soo, Prime Minister of the Republic of Korea; the Honorable Antony
7 Blinken, United States Secretary of State; the Honorable Park Jin, Minister of Foreign Affairs
8 of the Republic of Korea; the Honorable Lee Jong-Sup, Minister of National Defense of the
9 Republic of Korea; the Honorable Lloyd Austin, United States Secretary of Defense; the
10 Honourable Seo Eun-ji, Consul General of the Republic of Korea in Seattle, Washington; the
11 Honorable Sang Sueng-man, Consul and Head of the Consulate of the Republic of Korea in
12 Anchorage, Alaska; and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Dan Sullivan,
13 U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Mary Peltola, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska
14 delegation in Congress.