

# THE ALASKA LEGISLATURE



**\* HONORING \***

## **\* BARROW ARCTIC SCIENCE CONSORTIUM \***

The Twenty-sixth Alaska State Legislature is proud to recognize the Barrow Arctic Science Consortium (BASC) for its role in increasing collaboration between Alaska communities and U.S. and international researchers. BASC was created by local people in 1996 and plays a significant role in providing educational and community outreach support for researchers by providing logistical support for science field projects.

BASC manages the Barrow Environmental Observatory for the science community and for the shareholders of Ukpeagvik Inupiat Corporation. Through BASC's efforts, the North Slope Borough has zoned the 7,466-acre Barrow Environmental Observatory as the nation's first Scientific Research District. BASC led the collaborative effort to create the new Barrow Arctic Research Center, a twenty-first century laboratory and community outreach facility. BASC, working with the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission and the North Slope Borough Department of Wildlife Management, wrote the *Guidelines for Improved Cooperation between Arctic Researchers and Northern Communities*. The *Guidelines* help researchers incorporate local concerns in their research planning and include local residents in their field research activities. BASC's work in helping create the Native-run Chukotka Science Support Group in Russia has provided some of the same advantages to residents and to U.S. scientists working in Chukotka in the Russian Far East.

BASC is the Arctic Ocean Coordinator for the Arctic Ocean Observing System, established by the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration. BASC is currently working with scientists to develop a cabled seafloor observatory running offshore from Barrow to Prudhoe Bay. This observatory will provide year round access to monitor the Arctic Ocean for natural and industrial baseline data. BASC is the point of contact for U.S. and foreign research vessels in the Arctic, and provides community observers to ride on the ships, work with scientists and report back to their communities on the researchers' and ships' activities.

BASC provides assistance to hundreds of distinguished visiting scientists every year. BASC employs local people to work with the scientists and links many Alaskan students with field research projects. In recent years, BASC's public outreach programs have included over 80 community and school presentations annually. BASC assists every federal agency working in the U.S. Arctic and is a national treasure. With accelerating interest in climate change and in offshore resources, BASC is more important than ever to our communities and to our scientists.

The members of the Twenty-sixth Alaska State Legislature would like to recognize the Barrow Arctic Science Consortium as one of Alaska's premier organizations linking local concerns and national and international science efforts.



  
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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

  
GARY STEVENS  
PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

  
REP. REGGIE JOULE  
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SEN. DONALD OLSON  
PRIME SPONSOR

Date: February 6, 2009

Cosponsors: Representatives Chenault, Austerman, Buch, Cissna, Coghill, Crawford, Dahlstrom, Doogan, Edgmon, Fairclough, Gara, Gardner, Gatto, Gruenberg, Guttenberg, Hawker, Herron, Holmes, Johansen, Johnson, Kawasaki, Kerttula, Lynn, Millett, Muñoz, Neuman, Olson, Petersen, Ramras, Salmon, Seaton, Stoltze, Thomas, Tuck, Wilson; Senators Stevens, Bunde, Davis, Dyson, Ellis, Elton, Hoffman, Huggins, Kookesh, McGuire, Menard, Meyer, Paskvan, Stedman, Therriault, Thomas, Wagoner, Wielechowski