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(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To establish an Ambassador-at-Large for Arctic Affairs.

\_\_\_\_\_  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. BERA introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee  
on \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## **A BILL**

To establish an Ambassador-at-Large for Arctic Affairs.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. AMBASSADOR-AT-LARGE FOR ARCTIC AFFAIRS.**

4       Title I of the State Department Basic Authorities Act  
5       of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2651a et seq.) is amended by adding  
6       at the end the following new section:

1   **“SEC. 65. UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR-AT-LARGE FOR**  
2                           **ARCTIC AFFAIRS.**

3           “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is authorized within  
4 the Department of State an Ambassador-at-Large for Arc-  
5 tic Affairs, appointed under subsection (b).

6           “(b) APPOINTMENT.—The Ambassador shall be ap-  
7 pointed by the President, by, and with the advice and con-  
8 sent of the Senate.

9           “(c) DUTIES.—The Ambassador is authorized to rep-  
10 resent the United States in matters and cases relevant to  
11 Arctic affairs and shall be responsible to the Secretary of  
12 State for all matters, programs, and related activities per-  
13 taining to the Arctic region in the conduct of foreign policy  
14 by the Department, including, as appropriate, leading the  
15 coordination of programs carried out by United States  
16 Government agencies abroad, and such other related du-  
17 ties as the Secretary may from time to time designate.

18           “(d) AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY.—The Ambassador-  
19 at-Large for Arctic Affairs is authorized to maintain con-  
20 tinuous observation and coordination of all matters indi-  
21 cated by the Secretary of State, including those pertaining  
22 to energy, environment, trade, and infrastructure develop-  
23 ment and maintenance, and, in consultation with the  
24 heads of other relevant departments and agencies, those  
25 pertaining to law enforcement and political-military affairs  
26 in the conduct of foreign policy in the Arctic, including

1 programs carried out by other United States Government  
2 agencies when such programs pertain to the following mat-  
3 ters, to the extent directed by the Secretary of State:

4 “(1) National security.

5 “(2) Strengthening cooperation among Arctic  
6 countries.

7 “(3) The promotion of responsible natural re-  
8 source management and economic development.

9 “(4) Protecting the Arctic environment and  
10 conserving its biological resources.

11 “(5) Arctic indigenous peoples, including by in-  
12 volving them in decisions that affect them.

13 “(6) Scientific monitoring and research.

14 “(e) ADDITIONAL DUTIES.—In addition to the duties  
15 and responsibilities specified in subsections (c) and (d),  
16 the Ambassador-at-Large for Arctic Affairs shall also  
17 carry out such other relevant duties as the Secretary may  
18 assign.

19 “(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

20 “(1) ARCTIC REGION.—The term ‘Arctic region’  
21 means—

22 “(A) the geographic region north of the  
23 66.56083 parallel latitude north of the equator;

1                   “(B) all the United States territory north  
2                   and west of the boundary formed by the Porcu-  
3                   pine, Yukon, and Kuskokwim Rivers;

4                   “(C) all contiguous seas, including the Arc-  
5                   tic Ocean and the Beaufort, Bering, and  
6                   Chukchi Seas; and

7                   “(D) the Aleutian Chain.

8                   “(2) ARCTIC COUNTRIES.—The term ‘Arctic  
9                   countries’ means the permanent members of the  
10                  Arctic Council, namely the United States, Canada,  
11                  Denmark, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Finland, and  
12                  Russia.”.