

112TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**S.** \_\_\_\_\_

To ensure the icebreaking capabilities of the United States and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. BEGICH (for himself and Ms. CANTWELL) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

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**A BILL**

To ensure the icebreaking capabilities of the United States and for other purposes.

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. SHORT TITLES.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Preserve Our Large  
5 Arctic Response Capability Act” or as the “POLAR-C  
6 Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. FINDING; SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

8 (a) FINDING.—Congress finds that the United States  
9 priorities for maritime transportation in the polar regions  
10 set out in the National Security Presidential Directive 66

1 and Homeland Security Presidential Directive 25 dated  
2 January 9, 2009 are—

3 (1) to facilitate safe, secure, and reliable navi-  
4 gation;

5 (2) to protect maritime commerce; and

6 (3) to protect the environment.

7 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-  
8 gress that the United States should maintain domestic  
9 heavy and medium duty icebreaker assets to meet United  
10 States Coast Guard statutory requirements and priorities  
11 for maritime transportation and that maintaining less  
12 than a sufficient number of heavy duty icebreaking assets  
13 jeopardizes national security, law enforcement, maritime  
14 safety, environmental protection, disaster response, sci-  
15 entific research, and natural resource protection in the  
16 polar regions and Alaska.

17 **SEC. 3. ICEBREAKING CAPABILITY.**

18 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

19 (1) COVERED VESSELS.—The term “covered  
20 vessels” means—

21 (A) Coast Guard Cutter POLAR SEA  
22 (WAGB 11); and

23 (B) the Coast Guard Cutter POLAR  
24 STAR (WAGB 10).



1 (B) change the homeport of either of the  
2 covered vessels;

3 (C) expend any funds—

4 (i) for any expenses directly or indi-  
5 rectly associated with the decommissioning  
6 of either of the covered vessels, including  
7 expenses for dock use or other goods and  
8 services;

9 (ii) for any personnel expenses di-  
10 rectly or indirectly associated with the de-  
11 commissioning of either of the covered ves-  
12 sels, including expenses for decommis-  
13 sioning officer; or

14 (iii) for any expenses associated with  
15 a decommissioning ceremony for either of  
16 the covered vessels;

17 (D) appoint a decommissioning officer to  
18 be affiliated with either of the covered vessels;

19 or

20 (E) place either of the covered vessels in  
21 inactive status; and

22 (2) the Administrator of the Maritime Adminis-  
23 tration may not receive, maintain, dismantle, or re-  
24 cycle either of the covered vessels.