

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2000

To establish a program to monitor the Arctic region, promote United States interests in that region, and combat Russian, Chinese, and other foreign malign influence in the region.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 10, 2025

Mr. KEATING (for himself, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. HUIZENGA, and Mr. AMODEI of Nevada) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To establish a program to monitor the Arctic region, promote United States interests in that region, and combat Russian, Chinese, and other foreign malign influence in the region.

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 TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Arctic Watchers Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

6 It is the sense of Congress that—

7 (1) the Arctic region is a critical region for
8 United States national security which presents both

1 risks and opportunities for United States security,
2 economic, natural resource, cyber, and geopolitical
3 interests around the world; and

4 (2) the People’s Republic of China and the Rus-
5 sian Federation seek to undermine United States in-
6 terests in that region and it is incumbent upon the
7 United States to counter Chinese and Russian influ-
8 ence in all sectors in the region.

9 **SEC. 3. ARCTIC WATCHER PROGRAM.**

10 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State, in coordi-
11 nation with the Secretary of Defense, shall establish and
12 carry out a program in the Department of State, to be
13 known as the “Arctic Watcher Program”, to—

14 (1) monitor the Arctic region across the secu-
15 rity, military, economic, natural resource, cyber, sci-
16 entific, and political sectors in foreign countries;

17 (2) monitor and combat People’s Republic of
18 China, Russian Federation, and other malign influ-
19 ence campaigns across that region that impact
20 United States national security, European security,
21 and Indo-Pacific security that pose a threat to the
22 rules-based order, and undermine United States in-
23 terests in the region;

24 (3) strengthen the capacity of the United States
25 to engage with foreign countries and regional and

1 international mechanisms with stakes in that region
2 and protect the region for future generations; and

3 (4) strengthen United States energy security,
4 cyber security and economic interests in that region
5 including in the critical minerals and natural re-
6 sources sectors.

7 (b) ASSIGNMENT.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the program
9 required by subsection (a), the Secretary of State, in
10 consultation with the Office of the Ambassador-at-
11 Large for Arctic Affairs, shall assign individuals, to
12 be known as “Arctic Watchers”, to the following
13 posts:

14 (A) At least 3 posts in European countries
15 with significant interests in the Arctic region.

16 (B) At least one post in North American
17 countries with significant interests in the Arctic
18 region.

19 (C) Other posts as designated by the Sec-
20 retary of State deemed necessary for promoting
21 the activities of the program.

22 (2) NOTIFICATION.—The Secretary of State
23 shall notify the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the
24 House of Representatives and the Committee on

1 Foreign Relations of the Senate upon assigning indi-
2 viduals to be Arctic Watchers under paragraph (1).

3 (c) OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Office of the Amba-
5 sador-at-Large for Arctic Affairs shall provide policy
6 guidance to Arctic Watchers under subsection (b) to
7 further United States interests in the Arctic region
8 and to carry out the activities of the program re-
9 quired by subsection (a).

10 (2) REPORT.—Each post required by subsection
11 (b)(1) shall, in consultation with the Office of the
12 Ambassador-at-Large for Arctic Affairs, prepare and
13 submit to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the
14 House of Representatives and the Committee on
15 Foreign Relations of the Senate an annual report
16 that—

17 (A) outlines the steps the post and the
18 Arctic Watcher assigned to that post have
19 taken to advance the program required by sub-
20 section (a); and

21 (B) identifies goals for the Arctic Watcher
22 for the following year to further advance such
23 program.

24 (d) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date
25 of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the

1 Secretary of State shall submit to the Committee on For-
2 eign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Com-
3 mittee on Foreign Relations of the Senate a report that
4 includes—

5 (1) a detailed breakdown of posts at which staff
6 are assigned the role of Arctic Watcher;

7 (2) the responsibilities to which they have been
8 assigned; and

9 (3) the strategies developed by the chief of mis-
10 sion, as applicable.

11 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
12 authorized to be appropriated \$10,000,000 for fiscal year
13 2025 and each fiscal year thereafter to carry out this sec-
14 tion.

15 **SEC. 4. ARCTIC REGION DEFINED.**

16 In this Act, the term “Arctic region” has the meaning
17 given that term in section 112 of the Arctic Research and
18 Policy Act (15 U.S.C. 4111).

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