



## MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL OPPORTUNITIES IN THE ARCTIC FOR THE UNITED STATES

PRESENTED TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & NATURAL RESOURCES  
BY PATRICK ARNOLD ON BEHALF OF THE **MAINE PORT AUTHORITY** AND **SOLIDG**

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The state of Maine's proximity to the High North, and its Arctic resources and partners, has furnished Maine with a unique role in Arctic affairs. In January of 2013 the Icelandic Steamship Company Eimskip moved its United States containerized freight operations to the in the Port of Portland, Maine. This terminal had recently been refurbished, in part, utilizing \$5million in TIGER 1 funds received from the USDOT. Eimskip brought to Maine for the first time in 40 years direct freight connections to Northern Europe as well as Scandinavia, Iceland, Greenland and Eastern Canada. Eimskip's presence on these niche trade lanes has provided Maine a unique opportunity to open new markets for Maine and New England based businesses. For a State such as Maine niche opportunities represent sustainable business. Maine's access to these markets is as close as markets in the mid-Atlantic states in the US from a cost perspective.

The economic development afforded through Eimskip's connection to Iceland and points throughout the High North, has served as the cornerstone on which Maine is building cultural, educational and political opportunities. The cultural affinity Maine has for northern cultures including Scandinavia, Newfoundland, Quebec and Greenland, generates genuine interest in exchange.

While Maine is interested in the long term sustainable niche opportunities in the high north and arctic, the immense oil, gas and mining opportunities throughout this region will have an impact on the United States, overtime, in one way or another. The impacts of climate change will affect this region and its resources and the United States should be aware as to how, and how to play a helpful, responsible and stabilizing role in these changes. As a nation, we must adapt to changes in the environment.

Maine is a gateway for the Eastern United States to the high north and Atlantic Arctic related. With nearly 60% of the US population living east of the Mississippi River, ocean shipping from China through the Arctic to the US Eastern Seaboard represents opportunities that will impact the American economy. While Maine will continue to lead the Northeastern U,S, through its connections to partners in the High North, the United States has several considerations to make regarding it's national participation in Arctic Developments. These considerations include

- Appointing a United States Ambassador to the Arctic
- Acceding to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
- Examining the need for long-lead investments in infrastructure, like ice-breakers and search and rescue assets
- Evaluating the unique challenges Arctic shipping faces, from claims of ownership over international straits to the emission of black carbon that contributes to a climate feedback effect to inadequate charting
- How and whether the United States can continue to work cooperatively with Russia on Arctic issues, even as other aspects of the bilateral relationship are under significant strain
- The impact of changes on the people of the Arctic, whether they live in Alaska, Canada, Finland or other parts of the region

Regardless of the continental U.S. awareness of the changes taking place in the Arctic – there will be an impact and it will affect us all.

Patrick R. Arnold on behalf of 