

RESOLUTION

NATIONAL SCIENCE BOARD

SUPPORT TO NSF DIRECTOR FOR
POLAR ICEBREAKING ISSUES

WHEREAS the research supported by NSF in polar regions depends heavily on polar icebreakers, both as research platforms and to enable transportation of cargo and fuel to the U.S. research stations at McMurdo Sound and at the South Pole in Antarctica; and

WHEREAS that research is critical for understanding phenomena of global importance, including climate change, and polar regions offer unique opportunities for forefront research in a broad range of disciplines; and

WHEREAS the two Coast Guard polar class icebreakers that support McMurdo and South Pole supply are nearing the end of their design lifetimes and would require substantial costly upgrades within the next few years to keep them operational; and

WHEREAS the Administration has proposed that NSF assume responsibility for polar icebreaking operations in FY 2006 and beyond; and

WHEREAS the Administration and Congress have encouraged consideration of alternatives to the status quo;

Therefore, be it RESOLVED, that the National Science Board supports the NSF Director taking all necessary steps to meet the requirements for polar icebreaking among available options to best meet the needs of the research community in the most cost effective manner.



Warren M. Washington
Chairman