



For Immediate Release

NDAA Serves as Significant First Step To Securing America's Northern Border

January 1, 2020

Anchorage, Alaska—Today, the U.S. Congress voted the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2021 into law. This legislation is critical to advancing the security interests of the United States of America across every corner of the globe and represents U.S. security priorities for the upcoming year. Since the end of the Cold War, the Arctic has routinely been neglected in the NDAA, but this year's legislation signals an important pivot back towards an area of increasing geostrategic significance.

As Russia and China continue to invest in military and economic capabilities in the Arctic, the U.S. has failed to keep its regional security infrastructure up to date. This lack of attention to the region has created an unguarded avenue of approach for American adversaries. Thankfully, this legislation provides a positive first step towards protecting our northern border.

Thanks to the tireless work of the Alaska Congressional delegation, including Sen. Murkowski, Sen. Sullivan, and Rep. Don Young, the NDAA authorizes the construction of six Polar Security Cutters, stands up the Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies, a regional Department of Defense center, puts forth a plan to modernize the North Warning System, and will "strengthen communications in the Arctic," says Rep. Young.

"As recognized by this year's NDAA now, more than ever, it's time to move from awareness to action," says Sen. Murkowski. "I've seen the awakening across the board, which is a positive thing, but we still need to get there," Sen. Sullivan concurs.

"The legislation is a great first step toward closing security gaps in the region. However further investments must be made to close critical gaps in communications, domain awareness, and enabling infrastructure in the Arctic, as well as increasing our general Arctic presence," says George Tronsrue, Quintillion's Chief Executive Officer.

"If you can't communicate, you cannot deter, and you cannot compete. You cannot fight in any of the geographical areas in the world without communications, but it is particularly difficult in the high North," says General Jacoby, former Commander of NORAD and NORTHCOM and a Senior Strategic Advisor at Quintillion.

Quintillion's network, and the broadband connectivity it provides, form the necessary underpinning for a modern Arctic defense infrastructure. With over 1,600 miles of fiber optic cable laid off the coast of



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Alaska and down the Dalton highway, our company stands ready and willing to accelerate progress toward securing our northern border and the broader Arctic region.

About Quintillion

Quintillion is a private global communications corporation located in Anchorage, AK. Quintillion built and operates a submarine and terrestrial high-speed fiber optic cable system that spans the Alaskan Arctic and connects to the lower-48 using existing networks. The three-phase Quintillion subsea cable system will ultimately connect Asia to the American Pacific Northwest, and to Western Europe via the Northwest Passage through the Alaskan and Canadian Arctic.

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