

**For Immediate Release**  
**May 15, 2015**

**Obama reappoints Fran Ulmer as Chair of the USARC**

**Washington, DC** - President Obama appointed Fran Ulmer to a second 4-year term as [Chair](#) of the US Arctic Research Commission (USARC). Originally appointed in March 2011, Ulmer continues to serve as a key counselor on Arctic research and policy issues to both the Administration and Congress. She has played a key role in advising the White House on the 5-year Arctic Research Program Plan, the affiliated National Strategy for the Arctic Region (NSAR), the NSAR Implementation Plan, and the recently released Executive Order (13689), all of which enhance coordination of national efforts in the Arctic.

Last year, Ulmer was also named "Special Adviser on Arctic Science and Policy," by Secretary of State John Kerry. In this capacity, she advises on many issues, including the US [Chairmanship](#) of the Arctic Council, a two-year endeavor that began in April 2015. The Arctic Council is a high-level intergovernmental forum that focuses on environmental protection and sustainable development.

"I am pleased to be reappointed to this commission, which has been contributing advice about Arctic research since it was created in 1984. Our 2015-2016 biennial [report](#) on goals and objectives for Arctic research was released today, just as the US initiates its leadership of the Arctic Council," said Ulmer.

The 2015-16 report calls for greater research effort in six broad categories:

- 1) Observe, understand, and predict Arctic environmental change;
- 2) Improve Arctic human health;
- 3) Advance knowledge of Arctic natural resources: a focus on renewable energy;
- 4) Advance the Arctic built environment;
- 5) Explore Arctic cultures and community resilience; and
- 6) Enhance international scientific cooperation in the Arctic

Prior to her association with the USARC, Ulmer served on the National Commission on the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill and Offshore Drilling. She was also chancellor of the University of Alaska Anchorage, and served as Alaska's Lieutenant Governor, an Alaska state representative, and Mayor of Juneau.

USARC's mission is to develop and recommend US Arctic research policy to the President and Congress and to build cooperative links in Arctic research within the federal government, with Arctic residents, the State of Alaska, researchers and international partners. Visit the USARC at <http://www.arctic.gov> and subscribe to our daily electronic newsletter, the "[Arctic Daily Update](#)," which provides information about recent events, news, legislation, and meetings.

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