At the end of subtitle H of title XII, add the following new section:

SEC. 12 . STRATEGY TO PROTECT UNITED STATES INTERESTS IN THE ARCTIC REGION.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) The United States has important economic, security, and national defense interests in the Arctic region.

(2) The United States Government has issued several key reports and strategies on the Arctic region over the last four years, including—

(A) the Department of Defense Report to Congress on Strategy to Protect United States National Security Interests in the Arctic Region (December 2016);

(B) the 2015 Year In Review: Progress Report on the Implementation of the National Strategy for the Arctic Region (March 2016);

(C) the Implementation Plan for the National Strategy for the Arctic Region (January 30, 2014); and
(D) the National Strategy for the Arctic Region (May 2013), which set forth the United States Government’s strategic priorities for the Arctic region.

(3) According to the Council on Foreign Relations, the Arctic region is warming at double the rate of the rest of the world, opening new routes for ships and development of natural resources throughout the Arctic region.

(4) The rapidly warming Arctic region threatens fisheries and wildlife habitat, existing infrastructure and communities throughout Alaska, including increased vulnerability to coastal erosion. Alaska native communities are particularly vulnerable to the changing climate.

(5) Given these developments, the United States needs to bolster its infrastructure and assets in the Arctic region to safeguard its strategic interests, defend its national borders, protect the environment, and maintain its scientific and technological leadership.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the President should continue to convene the Arctic Executive Steering Committee established
on January 21, 2015, pursuant to Executive Order 13689 (80 Fed. Reg. 6425; relating to enhancing coordination of national efforts in the Arctic); and

(2) the United States should ratify the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea in order to allow the United States to secure its claim to offshore resources present along the Arctic’s extended continental shelf.

(c) Strategy to Protect United States Interests in the Arctic Region.—

(1) In general.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall develop and submit to Congress a strategy to protect United States interests in the Arctic region.

(2) Goals.—The strategy required under paragraph (1) shall include the following goals:

(A) Improve telecommunications, navigation, ocean and coastal mapping, and Coast Guard and other infrastructure to support a sustained security and emergency response presence for the State of Alaska.

(B) Direct the United States representative to the Arctic Council to use the voice and vote of the United States to conduct increased
confidence-building and cooperative security measures with the other member countries of the Arctic Council.

(C) Support climate resilience efforts across the Arctic region.

(D) Sustain robust research funding to understand the ongoing climate changes in the Arctic region and the global impact of such changes.

(3) USE OF PRIOR REPORTS AND STRATEGIES.—The strategy required under paragraph (1) shall be informed by the reports and strategies described in subsection (a)(2) and other relevant United States Government reports and strategies regarding the Arctic region.

(d) COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 45 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives, the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a re-
port assessing the cost and procurement schedule for
new United States icebreakers.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The report required in para-
graph (1) shall include an analysis of the following:

(A) The current status of the efforts of the
Coast Guard to acquire new icebreaking capa-
bility, including coordination through the Inte-
grated Program Office.

(B) Actions being taken by the Coast
Guard to incorporate key practices from other
nations that procure icebreakers to increase
knowledge and reduce costs and risks.

(C) The extent by which the cost and
schedule for building Coast Guard icebreakers
differs from those in other countries, if known.

(D) The extent that innovative acquisition
practices (such as multiyear funding and block
buys) may be applied to icebreaker acquisition
to reduce the cost and accelerate the schedule.

(E) A capacity replacement plan to miti-
gate a potential icebreaker capability gap if the
Polar Star cannot remain in service.

(F) Any other matters the Comptroller
General considers appropriate.