

Representative Bob Herron

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House District 38

Kuskokwim & Johnson Rivers

Kuskokwin Bay & Nelson Island

Akiachak

Akiak

Atmautluak

Bethel

Chefornak

Eek

Goodnews Bay

Kasigluk

Kipnuk

Kongiganak

Kwethluk

Kwigillingok

Lower Kalskag

Mekoryuk

Mertarvik

Napakiak

Napaskiak

Newtok

Nightmute

Nunapitchuk

Oscarville

Platinum

Quinhagak

Toksook Bay

Tuluksak

Tununak

Tuntutuliak

Upper Kalskag

United States Arctic Policy – NSPD-66

On January 9, 2009, President Bush signed National Security Presidential Directive (NSPD)-66 on Arctic Region Policy. Replacing the Clinton-era Arctic policy directive, NSPD-66 is now the stated Arctic policy of the Obama Administration as well.

The policy aims to:

- support the ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS);
- promote participation in the Arctic Council;
- develop agreements with other Arctic countries on increased human activity in the region; and
- "continue to cooperate with other countries on Arctic issues through the United Nations (U.N.) and its specialized agencies."

The policy argues against the need for a treaty among Arctic nations similar to the Antarctic Treaty restricting commercial and military activities. The policy calls for the US to, "assert a more active and influential national presence to protect its Arctic interests and project sea power throughout the region," and to secure free passage of vessels through the Northwest Passage and the Northern Sea Route.

The following is a link to NSPD-66 in its entirety:

<http://www.fas.org/irp/offdocs/nspd/nspd-66.htm>