

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,
TRADE, & TOURISM




Representative Bob Herron, Chair

Rep. Neal Foster, Rep. Berta Gardner, Rep. Reggie Joule, Rep. Wes Keller,
Rep. Cathy Muñoz, Rep. Kurt Olson, Rep. Steve Thompson, Rep. Chris Tuck

MEMORANDUM

Date: March 16, 2011

To: Senator Joe Paskvan, Co-Chair Senate Resources
Senator Tom Wagoner, Co-Chair Senate Resources

From: Rep. Bob Herron 

RE: CSHJR 19 (RES), Supporting Ratification of Law of the Sea

I respectfully request a hearing in Senate Resources for **CSHJR 19 (RES), "Urging the United States Senate to ratify the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea."**

HJR 19 urges the United States Senate to ratify the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), also known as the Law of the Sea treaty (LOST). This resolution will help Alaska's Senate delegation bring the Law of the Sea treaty to the Senate floor for a vote on ratification. Ratification of this treaty is important to protect United States interests concerning the use and development of the high seas off Alaska.

In her annual address to the Alaska State Legislature February 24, 2011, United States Senator Lisa Murkowski called on the Legislature to once again pass a resolution urging United States Senate ratification of UNCLOS.

Under the treaty, member nations can claim an exclusive economic zone (EEZ) to 200 miles, with sovereign rights to explore, develop, and manage the resources within that zone. A claim can extend beyond the 200 mile limit if the continental shelf can be proven to extend beyond 200 miles. It is estimated that the northern seabed off Alaska and beyond the 200-mile limit could be as large as the state of California.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact myself or my staff Rob Earl at 465.4942.