

Representative Bob Herron

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House District 38
Kuskokwim, Yukon & Johnson Rivers
Kuskokwim Bay & Nelson Island

Akiachak
Akiak
Aniak
Atmautluak
Bethel
Chefornak
Chuathbaluk
Crooked Creek
Eek
Goodnews Bay
Kasigluk
Kipnuk
Kongiganak
Kweithluk
Kwigillingok
Lower Kalskag
Marshall
Mekoryuk
Mertarvik
Napakiak
Napaskiak
Newtok
Nightmute
Nunapitchuk
Oscarville
Platinum
Quinhagak
Russian Mission
Toksook Bay
Tuluksak
Tununak
Tuntutuliak
Upper Kalskag

CS HJR 15 (JUD)

“Denouncing the decision to reverse the suspensions of the federal prosecutors who intentionally withheld evidence of innocence from the defense of Senator Ted Stevens; and honoring the service of Senator Ted Stevens.”

Sponsor Statement

Senator Stevens contributions to the state are obviously too long to list, but included helping to craft key federal legislation that has immensely benefited Alaska, such as the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, the Trans-Alaska Pipeline Authorization Act, and the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

On July 29, 2008, Alaskan Senator Theodore Fulton “Ted” Stevens, Sr., was wrongfully indicted for allegedly failing to disclose the value of renovations to his cabin. After trial, Attorney General of the United States, Eric Holder, asked that the verdict be set aside when it was discovered that federal prosecutors unlawfully withheld exonerating evidence from the defense. Judge Sullivan subsequently appointed a special counsel to investigate the prosecutors. On May 23, 2012, United States Associate Deputy Attorney General Scott N. Schools issued a final decision approving the disciplinary action proposed by Kevin Ohlson, chief of the Professional Misconduct Review unit, that federal prosecutor Joseph Bottini be suspended for 45 days and federal prosecutor James Goeke be suspended for 15 days. On January 2, 2015 the United States Merit Systems Protection Board upheld a 2013 ruling by an administrative judge finding that the United States Department of Justice violated its own rules when it suspended prosecutors Joseph Bottini and James Goeke.

HJR 15 Resolves that the Alaska State Legislature:

- Supports the full and fair exoneration of Senator Ted Stevens;
- Denounces the decision to reverse the suspensions of the federal prosecutors who intentionally withhold evidence from the defense of Senator Stevens;
- Requests the Alaska Bar Association determine whether federal prosecutors in the Stevens case violated the Alaska Rules of Professional Conduct;
- Honors the distinguished leadership of Senator Stevens to the State of Alaska on many issues that the state still faces today; and
- Further honors the importance of Senator Stevens’ service and legacy as a vital part of the history of the State of Alaska.