

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 14

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTIETH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES JAMES, Barnes, Hodgins, Sanders, Masek, Martin, Kemplen, Phillips, Cowdery, Vezey, Ryan, Porter, Ogan

Introduced: 1/21/97

Referred: House Special Committee on World Trade and State/Federal Relations, State Affairs

A RESOLUTION

1 Relating to supporting the "American Land Sovereignty Protection Act."

2 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

3 WHEREAS the United Nations has designated 67 sites in the United States as "World
4 Heritage Sites" or "Biosphere Reserves," which altogether are about equal in size to the State
5 of Colorado, the eighth largest state; and

6 WHEREAS art. IV, sec. 3, United States Constitution, provides that the United States
7 Congress shall make all needed regulations governing lands belonging to the United States;
8 and

9 WHEREAS many of the United Nations' designations include private property
10 inholdings and contemplate "buffer zones" of adjacent land; and

11 WHEREAS some international land designations such as those under the United States
12 Biosphere Reserve Program and the Man and Biosphere Program of the United Nations
13 Scientific, Educational, and Culture Organization operate under independent national
14 committees such as the United States National Man and Biosphere Committee that have no
15 legislative directives or authorization from the Congress; and

16 WHEREAS these international designations as presently handled are an open invitation
17 to the international community to interfere in domestic land use decisions; and

1 **WHEREAS** local citizens and public officials usually have no say in the designation
2 of land near their homes for inclusion in an international land use program; and

3 **WHEREAS** the President and the executive branch of the United States have, by
4 Executive Order and other agreements, implemented these designations without approval by
5 the Congress; and

6 **WHEREAS** actions by the President in applying international agreements to lands
7 owned by the United States may circumvent the Congress; and

8 **WHEREAS** Congressman Don Young introduced a bill in the 104th Congress entitled
9 the "American Land Sovereignty Protection Act of 1996" that required the explicit approval
10 of the Congress prior to restricting any use of United States land under international
11 agreements;

12 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature supports the "American Land
13 Sovereignty Protection Act" that reaffirms the constitutional authority of the Congress as the
14 elected representatives of the people over the land of the United States and urges that the
15 "American Land Sovereignty Protection Act" be reintroduced and passed by both the United
16 States House of Representatives and the United States Senate as soon as possible during the
17 105th Congress.

18 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the
19 Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S.
20 Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.