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Referred: Community & Regional
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1 IN THE HOUSE

BY BETTISWORTH

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 15

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

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THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

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Relating to state jurisdiction over its

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coastline.

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

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WHEREAS in 1953 Congress transferred to the states, under the Sub-

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merged Lands Act, rights to the marginal sea, extending seaward three miles

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from the low water mark; and

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WHEREAS Congress reserved to the federal government rights and powers

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of regulation and control for purposes of commerce, navigation, national

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defense, and international affairs in the area of the marginal sea; and

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WHEREAS the rights and powers reserved to the federal government in

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the area of the marginal sea are adequate to protect the national interest

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along the coastline of Alaska; and

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WHEREAS activities conducted beyond the marginal sea affect fragile

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ecological systems along the coast of Alaska; and

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WHEREAS Alaska needs to have jurisdiction to regulate the taking of

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fish and marine mammals that migrate from the area of the marginal sea in

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order to adequately manage state wildlife and fisheries resources; and

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WHEREAS Alaska has the paramount interest in regulating activities

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beyond the marginal sea that affect the state; and

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WHEREAS the current administration is reducing or eliminating many

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federal programs in favor of increasing the responsibility of each state

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for the welfare of its own residents;

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BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature requests Congress to

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transfer to Alaska jurisdiction extending seaward fifty miles from the low

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water mark to the same extent that Congress has already transferred

1 jurisdiction extending seaward three miles from the low water mark.

2 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable George Bush,
3 Vice-President of the United States and President of the Senate; the Honor-
4 able Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr., Speaker of the House of Representatives; and
5 to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S.
6 Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the
7 Alaska delegation in Congress.