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Referred: State Affairs, Judiciary  
and Finance

5-0542A

1 IN THE SENATE

BY UEHLING

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 12

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

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FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5

Relating to the determination of the

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state's boundaries with the Soviet Union

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and Canada.

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

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WHEREAS the boundaries of the state are a vital concern of the govern-

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ment of the state; and

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WHEREAS the sovereignty of a state within the federal system of the

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United States requires that a state government have complete and

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unambiguous jurisdiction over an area determined by well-defined

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geographical boundary lines; and

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WHEREAS, whenever the boundaries of a state are to be altered, the

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state has an essential and overriding interest in the determination of the

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boundary; and

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WHEREAS Alaska is unique among the 50 states because it is the only

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state with the potential for having boundaries with more than one foreign

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country; and

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WHEREAS boundaries between a foreign country and a state are, and

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should be, coterminous with the national boundaries of the United States

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and the foreign country; and

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WHEREAS negotiations are underway between the U.S. Department of State

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and the government of the Soviet Union over setting the boundaries between

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the United States and the Soviet Union; and

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WHEREAS at least seven rounds of boundary negotiations between the

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United States and the Soviet Union have occurred since 1981; and

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WHEREAS although the U.S. negotiation delegations have included

1 representatives of various federal agencies, the Department of State has  
2 never allowed or offered to invite a representative of the state to join  
3 the U.S. delegation to the boundary negotiations or formally solicited the  
4 input or advice of the state about the content or strategy of the nego-  
5 tiations; and

6 WHEREAS the negotiations involve important economic issues dealing  
7 with the petroleum, fishery, and other resources of the state and affecting  
8 the welfare and prosperity of the people of the state;

9 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature petitions the U.S.  
10 Department of State to include a representative of the state, appointed by  
11 the governor with the consent of the legislature, on all delegations that  
12 negotiate the boundaries between the state and the Soviet Union or Canada,  
13 including delegations that conduct preparatory deliberations and studies;  
14 and be it

15 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully re-  
16 quests that the Alaska delegation in Congress intercede on behalf of the  
17 state to secure a representative of the state on all boundary delegations  
18 that negotiate the boundaries of the state.

19 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Ronald  
20 Reagan, President of the United States; to the Honorable George Bush,  
21 Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; to  
22 the Honorable Jim Wright, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; to  
23 the Honorable George Schultz, Secretary of the U.S. Department of State; an  
24 to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Sena-  
25 tors, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the  
26 Alaska delegation in Congress.