

**HJR**

**21**



# FISCAL NOTE

**STATE OF ALASKA**  
**2007 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

Fiscal Note Number: HJR021-OOG-LGO-5-3-07  
 Bill Version: HJR 21  
 ( ) Publish Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction):  
 Title: Opposing the designation of any area in the state as a world heritage site, biosphere reserve, or any other...

Dept. Affected: OOG  
 RDU Office of the Lt. Governor  
 Component Office of the Lt. Governor

Sponsor Representatives Thomas, Johnson and Lynn  
 Requester House Resources Committee

Component N° 11

**Expenditures/Revenues** (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>						
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<b>CHANGE IN REVENUES ( )</b>						
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**FUND SOURCE** (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type--Do not abbreviate)						
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

Estimate of any current year (FY2007) cost: 0.0

Mark this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2008 budget proposal:

**POSITIONS**

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

**ANALYSIS:** (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This resolution will have no fiscal impact on the Office of the Lt. Governor.

Prepared by: Gail Fenunlai, Asst. Administrative Director  
 Division Division of Administrative Services  
 Approved by: Jim Merriner, Chief of Staff  
 Agency Office of the Lt. Governor

Phone 465-3985  
 Date/Time 5/3/2007, 10:41am  
 Date 5/3/2007

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE  
House Resources Committee

**Carl Gatto, Co-Chair**

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FAX (907) 465-2381  
Rep\_Carl\_Gatto@legis.state.ak.us



**Craig Johnson, Co-Chair**

State Capitol Building, Room 126  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182  
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Rep\_Craig\_Johnson@legis.state.ak.us

**FAX**

**To:** Don Bullock, Legislative Legal

**From:** Debra Higgins

**Fax:** 2029

**Phone:**

**Date:** May 5, 2007

**CC:**

**Re:** Amendment for HJR 21

**Pages with Cover:** 5

Don,  
The House Resources committee moved HJR 21 out as amended. I've attached the amendment and a marked version\A .

If you have any questions, my number is 3715.

Thanks,  
Debbie

**AMENDMENT #1**

*adopted  
5/10/07*

To: HJR 21

By: Rep. Thomas

Offered in: House Resources

Page 2, lines 25-30: DELETE ALL MATERIAL

Page 2, line 25: AD<sup>7</sup>:

**"WHEREAS the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), with the collaboration of the U.S. Department of Interior, has recognized the Wrangell-St. Elias/Glacier Bay/Kluane/Tatshenshini-Alsek World Heritage Site in Alaska, and has listed the Aleutian Islands Unit of the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Cape Krusenstern Archaeological District, Denali National Park, Gates of the Arctic National Park, and Katmai National Park on the Tentative List of areas nominated for full status; and**

**WHEREAS the United Nations Man and the Biosphere Program has identified the Glacier Bay - Admiralty Island, Noatak, Denali and Aleutian Islands Biosphere Reserves in Alaska; and"**

**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 21**  
**IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA**  
**TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION**

**BY REPRESENTATIVES THOMAS, Johnson, Lynn**

**Introduced: 4/26/07**

**Referred: Resources**

**A RESOLUTION**

1    **Opposing the designation of any area in the state as a world heritage site, biosphere**  
2    **reserve, or any other type of international designation without the consent of the Alaska**  
3    **State Legislature and affected local governments; and urging the United States Congress**  
4    **to enact legislation to require congressional approval before an area in the United States**  
5    **may be considered for an international designation.**

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

7           **WHEREAS** the United Nations has designated over 60 sites in the United States as  
8    **"world heritage sites" or "biosphere reserves," which altogether are equal in size to the State**  
9    **of Colorado, the eighth largest state; and**

10           **WHEREAS** art. IV, sec. 3, United States Constitution, provides that the United States  
11    **Congress shall make all needed rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property**  
12    **belonging to the United States and nothing in the constitution shall be construed to prejudice**  
13    **any claims of the United States or of any state; and**

14           **WHEREAS** many of the United Nation. designations include private property  
15    **inholdings and contemplate buffer zones of adjacent land; and**

1           **WHEREAS** some international land designations, such as those under the United  
 2 States Biosphere Reserve Program and the Man and Biosphere Program of the United Nations  
 3 Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization, operate under independent national  
 4 committees such as the United States Man and Biosphere National Committee that have no  
 5 legislative directives or authorization from the United States Congress; and

6           **WHEREAS** local citizens and public officials concerned about job creation and  
 7 resource-based economies usually have no say in the designation of land near their homes for  
 8 inclusion in an international land use program; and

9           **WHEREAS** these international designations are an open invitation to the international  
 10 community to interfere in domestic economies and land use decisions; and

11           **WHEREAS** environmental groups and the United States Department of the Interior,  
 12 National Park Service, have been working to establish an international park, a world heritage  
 13 site, and a marine Biosphere reserve called Beringia covering parts of western Alaska, eastern  
 14 Russia, and the Bering Sea, and in Glacier Bay National Park; and

15           **WHEREAS** foreign companies and countries could use these international  
 16 designations in western Alaska to block or inhibit economic development that they perceive  
 17 as competition; and

18           **WHEREAS** animal rights activists could use these international designations to  
 19 generate pressure to harass or block harvesting of marine mammals by Alaska Natives; and

20           **WHEREAS** international designations may be used to harass or block industrial  
 21 development in the state, including projects related to fishing, mining, timber harvesting,  
 22 railroads, power transmission lines, pipelines, and other oil and gas development; and

23           **WHEREAS** the subsistence and recreational use of fish and game resources in the  
 24 state could be severely and negatively affected by international land use designations; and

25           **WHEREAS** the United States Department of the Interior, in cooperation with the  
 26 Federal Interagency Panel for World Heritage, has identified the Aleutian Island Unit of the  
 27 Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge, Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Cape  
 28 Krusenstern National Monument, Denali National Park, Gates of the Arctic National Park,  
 29 Glacier Bay National Park, and Katmai National Park as likely to meet the criteria for future  
 30 nomination as world heritage sites; and

31           **WHEREAS**, under current law, the United States Secretary of the Interior can

1 nominate world heritage sites, and the United States Secretary of State can nominate  
2 biosphere reserves, both without approval by the Congress;

3 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature recognizes and reaffirms the  
4 constitutional authority of the United States Congress as the elected representatives of the  
5 people over the federally owned land of the United States; and be it

6 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature objects to the nomination  
7 or designation of any site in Alaska as a world heritage site, biosphere reserve, or any other  
8 type of international designation without the prior consent of the Alaska State Legislature and  
9 affected local governments; and be it

10 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States  
11 Congress to pass and the President to sign legislation that will require approval by an Act of  
12 Congress before any area in the United States or its territories can be studied as a potential, or  
13 nominated to be, a world heritage site, biosphere reserve, or any other type of international  
14 designation.

15 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable George W. Bush, President  
16 of the United States; the Honorable Richard B. Cheney, Vice-President of the United States  
17 and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Dirk Kempthorne, United States Secretary of  
18 the Interior; the Honorable Condoleezza Rice, United States Secretary of State; the Honorable  
19 Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Harry Reid,  
20 Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Mitch McConnell, Minority Leader of the  
21 U.S. Senate; the Honorable Steny Hoyer, Majority Leader of the U.S. House of  
22 Representatives; the Honorable John Boehner, Minority Leader of the U.S. House of  
23 Representatives; the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski, U.S.  
24 Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska  
25 delegation in Congress; and all members of the 110th United States Congress by electronic  
26 transmission.



# RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Growing Alaska Through Responsible Resource Development

Founded 1975

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Jason W. Bruns

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Congressman Don Young  
Governor Sarah Palin

May 2, 2007

Honorable Bill Thomas  
Alaska State House  
Capitol Building  
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: House Joint Resolution 21, Relating to the International Designations of Lands in Alaska

Dear Representative Thomas:

The Resource Development Council (RDC) is writing to express its support for House Joint Resolution 21, which requires the consent of the Alaska Legislature, affected local governments and Congress before any land within Alaska can fall under an international designation.

RDC is a statewide non-profit business association comprised of individuals and companies from Alaska's oil and gas, mining, forest products, fisheries and tourism industries. RDC's membership also includes Alaska Native corporations, local communities, organized labor and industry-support firms. Our purpose is to encourage a strong, diversified private sector in Alaska and expand the state's economic base through the responsible development of our natural resources.

Broad areas of Alaska already fall under conservation system unit (CSU) designations. In fact, Alaska accounts for 70 percent of America's national park lands and 85 percent of its wildlife refuge acreage. The nation's two largest national forests are within our state's borders, as well as 56 percent of America's federally-designated Wilderness. In our opinion, international designations such as World Heritage Sites (WHS) and Biosphere Reserves (BSR) are unnecessary and in some instances, may not be in the state's best interests.

Whether a WHS or BSR is created outside of an existing CSU or is applied on top of one, as proposed for Denali National Park, local, national and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) could use such a designation to rally opposition to legitimate development projects on adjacent federal, state, Native and private lands. Likely projects or activities that could potentially be jeopardized by these designations include mining, timber harvesting, energy development, transportation and general infrastructure. World Heritage Sites have been used by NGOs to block development

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elsewhere, including a mirage on private property near Yellowstone and other projects in Canada and abroad.

RDC believes any WHS or BSR designation must have authorization from Congress, the Legislature and the affected local government before being established. Otherwise, Alaska will risk throwing up yet one more potential barrier to resource development and having the Paris-based United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) meddle in domestic land use policies.

RDC appreciates you introducing this resolution and look forward to its immediate passage.

Sincerely,

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL  
for Alaska, Inc.



Carl Portman  
Deputy Director



State of Alaska  
**MINERALS  
COMMISSION**

*Irene Anderson, Chairman*

Department of Commerce, Community & Economic Development  
Office of Economic Development  
Mineral Development

April 30, 2007

**Irene Anderson**  
Bering Straits Native  
Corporation, Nome

**Del Acksela**  
Goldust Mines,  
Fairbanks

**Lee Mark Anthony**,  
C-D Development  
Co., Anchorage

**Greg Belacher**  
Bristol  
Environmental &  
Engineering Services,  
Corp., Anchorage

**Barty Colley**  
Usibelli Coal Mine,  
Inc., Fairbanks

**Don Cook**  
Cook International,  
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**Karl Hanseman**  
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Company, Juneau

**Charlotte MacCay**  
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Environmental &  
Engineering Services  
Corp., Anchorage

**Dr. Lance D. Miller**  
Juneau Economic  
Development  
Council, Juneau

**Mark Robinson**  
Olympic Resources  
Group LLC,  
Wrangell

**Richard A. Hughes**  
Staff - Fairbanks

**Honorable Bill Thomas**  
Alaska State House  
Capitol Building, Room 434  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

RE: House Joint Resolution 21

Dear Representative Thomas:

I had the opportunity to review the House Joint Resolution, No. 21 relating to world heritage sites, biosphere reserves and other types of international designations in Alaska.

The Alaska Minerals Commission was encouraged when the Alaska House of Representatives passed Resolve No. 13 during the First Session of the Twenty-First Alaska State Legislature regarding opposition to world heritage sites, biosphere reserves and other types of international designations in Alaska. It is apparent that another resolution is needed to remind federal agencies and international groups of Alaska's rights and to encourage Congress and the President to support our voice.

Since Statehood and the passage of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, the State and private land owners have not had the opportunity to evaluate the full resource potential of lands within the state. We have a responsibility to protect our resources to meet the needs of Alaskans. The international designations would lead to the loss of State's rights as well as use of privately owned land and resources. It is necessary and right for the Alaska Legislature to address and support Resolution No. 21 to ensure that Alaskan's have a voice in any designation nominated by the United States Department of the Interior, the United States Secretary of State, and international or environmental groups.

Thank you for your time and effort to address this very important topic.

Respectfully,

*Irene Anderson*  
Irene Anderson  
Chairman



# ALASKA MINERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

3305 Arctic Blvd., #105, Anchorage, Alaska 99503 • (907) 563-9229 • FAX: (907) 563-9225 • www.alaskaminers.org

April 28, 2007

Honorable Bill Thomas  
Alaska State House  
Capitol Building  
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: House Joint Resolution 21, Relating to International Designations of Lands in Alaska

Dear Representative Thomas,

The Alaska Miners Association supports House Joint Resolution 21 which opposes international designation of lands in Alaska unless there is consent from the Alaska State Legislature, the affected local governments and approval by the United States Congress.

This is an extremely important Resolution and we thank you for introducing it in this Legislature. Few Alaskans are aware of the dangers posed by international land designations such as World Heritage Sites and Biosphere Reserves. In addition to being contrary to the U.S. Constitution, World Heritage Sites (WHS) and Biosphere Reserves (BSR) can create serious problems for the states and communities where they occur. I will address just two of these problem areas -- harassment by environmental non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and international business competition.

Once a WHS or BSR is established, local and international NGOs have used these designations to harass and stop development projects on adjacent lands. This has occurred in Kamchatka, Australia, the United States, and elsewhere. In each of these situations the mere fact that a WHS was in place was used to create international pressure and controversy to stop the projects. As is often the case with NGO attacks, there was no scientifically based environmental quality issue. But the existence of a WHS was sufficient to argue for stopping the projects. It is common knowledge that anything "Alaskan" can be, and is, used as fund raising appeal for NGOs. WHSs and BSRs would become one more rallying cry.

If the federal conservation system units (National Parks, Preserves, Refuges, Monuments) in Western Alaska had been designated as a World Heritage Site, I doubt the Red Dog Mine would be operating today. This would have been due to NGO opposition, but also from international competitors. If the world's other major zinc producers had known that Red Dog would one day produce more than 10% of the world's zinc concentrate, they would have looked for ways to oppose Red Dog. A WHS designation would have provided such a tool for them.

National Parks, Preserves, Refuges, and Monuments often become the target for WHS and BSR designations and once established, the argument becomes the need for a "buffer" around the area. The needs of local communities or the lack of local jobs, or the fact that the area is on state or private land is irrelevant. All that matters is that the some proposed activity is near a WHS or BSR.

Thank you again for introducing this legislation and we urge that it be passed and distributed at the earliest possible date.

Sincerely,

Steven C. Borell, P.E.  
Executive Director

***The Alaska Professional Hunters Association Inc.  
HC 60 Box 299C, Copper Center Alaska 99573  
(907) 822-3755***

May 4, 2007

Honorable Bill Thomas  
Alaska State House  
Capitol Building  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Cc: House Resource Committee Members

RE: HJR 21, Relating to International Designations of Lands in Alaska

Dear Representative Thomas and Members of the House Resources Committee,

On behalf of the Alaska Professional Hunters Association Inc. (APHA) please receive this letter as a letter of support for HJR 21. This resolution represents a long time needed side-board for international designations of Alaska's lands. I would ask you how many of Alaska's residents knew on December 1, 1978 when the Wrangell-St. Elias Nation Monument was created that less than one year later it would be submitted and accepted to the United Nations World Heritage Committee in Cairo Egypt.

Additional portions of Alaska that have been similarly affected include:

Denali National Park and Preserve was established as Mt. McKinley National Park on Feb. 26, 1917. The Park was designated an international U.N. Biosphere Reserve in 1976.

Glacier Bay National Monument was established as a National Park and Preserve Dec. 2, 1980 and designated a United Nations Biosphere Reserve in 1986, then designated a program of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), World Heritage Site in 1992.

The mission statement of this United Nations subcommittee is to protect natural and cultural properties of outstanding universal value against the threat of damage in a rapidly developing world. One of the main responsibilities of this committee is to provide technical cooperation under the World Heritage Fund for the safeguarding of World Heritage properties to state parties whose resources are insufficient. Worldwide, there are numerous Biosphere Preserves and World Heritage Sites that are actively managed by the UNESCO.

It should be noted that the World Heritage Committee operates under international treaties. Action on or from these treaties does not require congressional approval. There are currently

twenty-two World Heritage Sites in the United States. Additional nominated World Heritage Sites in Alaska include areas in the Aleutian Islands, Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Denali National Park, and Katmai National Park. The U.S. Department of Interior has had a full contingent of representatives at all of the twenty-six sessions of the World Heritage Committee.

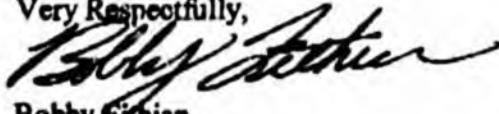
In regards to how the APHA plays into these designations, please note the following:

1. We are Alaskans and Americans and would like to have a say or an influence on decisions creating these designations of Public Lands of which our industry is dependant upon. (which we have not to date)
2. The way of life of our members and a substantial part of the two hundred million dollar a year revenue generation for Alaska that they generate within these designations could easily be jeopardized by differing philosophical viewpoints of foreign nations.

I just recently returned from conducting a paleontological expedition in the Alaska Arctic. (2008 NOVA Science documentary *Dinos on Ice*) Most of the scientists and the film crew personnel were from Europe or Australia, all of which were very familiar with UNESCO and the Alaskan designations. Additionally, they were very familiar with Beringia which is another International Park program substantial initiated by the National Park Service. In this case, many foreign countries including Canada are actively working to secure support for the creation and management of this large, once again, International Designation.

Representative Thomas's HJR 21 addresses the oversight that Alaska and our residents need and deserve in these types of designations. APHA encourages you to support this Resc' tion. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns regarding this matter.

Very Respectfully,



Bobby Githian  
APHA Executive Director