

STATE OF ALASKA  
THE LEGISLATURE

1997

Source  
CSHJR 14(RLS)

Legislative  
Resolve No.  
31



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**WHEREAS** former Assistant Secretary of the Interior George T. Frampton, Jr., and the President used the fact that Yellowstone National Park had been designated as a "World Heritage Site" as justification for intervening in the environmental impact statement process and blocking possible development of an underground mine on private land in Montana outside of the park; and

**WHEREAS** a recent designation of a portion of Kamchatka as a "World Heritage Site" was followed immediately by efforts from environmental groups to block investment insurance for development projects on Kamchatka that are supported by the local communities; and

**WHEREAS** environmental groups and the National Park Service have been working to establish an International Park, a World Heritage Site, and a Marine Biosphere Reserve covering parts of western Alaska, eastern Russia, and the Bering Sea; and

**WHEREAS**, as occurred in Montana, such designations could be used to block development projects on state and private land in western Alaska; and

**WHEREAS** foreign companies and countries could use such international designations in western Alaska to block economic development that they perceive as competition; and

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

**WHEREAS** such international designations could be used to harass or block any commercial activity, including pipelines, railroads, and power transmission lines; and

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

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

**WHEREAS** Congressman Don Young introduced House Resolution No. 901 in the 105th Congress entitled the "American Lands Sovereignty Protection Act of 1997" that required the explicit approval of the Congress prior to restricting any use of United States land under international agreements;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature supports the "American Lands Sovereignty Protection Act" that reaffirms the constitutional authority of the Congress as the elected representatives of the people over the federally owned land of the United States.

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