

**SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 7**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

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Introduced: 2/19/09

Referred: Senate Special Committee on Energy, Resources

**A RESOLUTION**

1 **Opposing a United Nations designation of the Arctic Ocean as a World Heritage Site.**

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

3 **WHEREAS** many scientists are concerned that a recent loss of sea ice in the Arctic  
4 Ocean could be an indicator of a potential prolonged period of warmer than normal  
5 temperatures in the Arctic; and

6 **WHEREAS** scientists theorize that a warming of the Arctic could lead to an ice-free  
7 ocean, which would likely lead to trans-Arctic Ocean shipping, resource development, and  
8 increased human activity in the Arctic; and

9 **WHEREAS** significant amounts of oil, gas, and minerals lie under the Arctic Ocean,  
10 and, if the ocean were ice-free, those resources could be more readily accessed and  
11 developed; and

12 **WHEREAS** a group of North American scientists recently proposed that the United  
13 Nations designate the Arctic Ocean a multi-location World Heritage Site for the express  
14 purpose of eliminating increased transportation, resource extraction, and other development in  
15 the area; and

16 **WHEREAS** management of the Arctic Ocean as a "sea park" would negatively affect

1 the sovereignty of the nations that border the ocean, including the United States, Canada,  
2 Greenland, Russia, and Norway;

3 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature opposes, and encourages the  
4 United States, on behalf of Alaska, its only Arctic state, to oppose, any effort by the United  
5 Nations to designate any portion of the Arctic Ocean as a World Heritage Site or similar  
6 designation that would impinge on the sovereignty of the United States.

7 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of  
8 the United States; and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Mark Begich, U.S.  
9 Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska  
10 delegation in Congress.