

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 51

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Recognizing the 50th anniversary of the signing of
the Antarctic Treaty.

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Whereas the Antarctic Treaty was signed by 12 nations in Washington, DC, on December 1, 1959, “with the interests of science and the progress of all mankind”;

Whereas the Antarctic Treaty was established to continue and develop international “cooperation on the basis of freedom of scientific investigation in Antarctica as applied during the International Geophysical Year”;

Whereas the Antarctic Treaty came into force on June 23, 1961, after its unanimous ratification by the seven countries (Argentina, Australia, Chile, France, New Zealand, Norway, and the United Kingdom) with territorial claims in the region and five other countries (Belgium, Japan, South Africa, the Soviet Union, and the United States), which had collaborated in Antarctic research activities during the International Geophysical Year from July 1, 1957, through December 31, 1958;

Whereas the Antarctic Treaty now has 47 nations as signatories that together represent nearly 90 percent of humanity;

Whereas Article IV of the Antarctic Treaty states that “no acts or activities taking place while the present Treaty is in force shall constitute a basis for asserting, supporting or denying a claim to territorial sovereignty in Antarctica”;

Whereas the 14 articles of the Antarctic Treaty have provided a lasting foundation for maintaining the region south of 60 degrees south latitude, nearly 10 percent of the Earth’s surface, “for peaceful purposes only”;

Whereas the Antarctic Treaty prohibits “any measure of a military nature”;

Whereas the Antarctic Treaty has promoted international nuclear cooperation by prohibiting “any nuclear explosions in Antarctica and the disposal there of radioactive waste material”;

Whereas the Antarctic Treaty provides a framework for the signatories to continue to meet “for the purpose of exchanging information, consulting together on matters of common interest pertaining to Antarctica, and formu-

lating and considering, and recommending to their Governments, measures in furtherance of the principles and objectives of the Treaty”;

Whereas common interests among the Antarctic Treaty nations facilitated the development and ratification of the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources;

Whereas the international cooperation represented by the Antarctic Treaty offers humankind a precedent for the peaceful governance of international spaces;

Whereas in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the International Geophysical Year, the Antarctic Treaty Parties in their Edinburgh Declaration recognized the current International Polar Year for its contributions to science worldwide and to international cooperation; and

Whereas the International Polar Year program has endorsed the Antarctic Treaty Summit that will convene in Washington, DC, at the Smithsonian Institution on the 50th anniversary of the Antarctic Treaty: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring), That the Congress—*

3 (1) recognizes that the Antarctic Treaty has
4 greatly contributed to science and science coopera-
5 tion worldwide and successfully ensured the “use of
6 Antarctica for peaceful purposes only and the con-
7 tinuance of international harmony” for the past half
8 century; and

1 (2) encourages international and interdiscipli-
2 nary collaboration in the Antarctic Treaty Summit
3 to identify lessons from 50 years of international co-
4 operation under the Antarctic Treaty that have leg-
5 acy value for humankind.

Passed the House of Representatives September 30,
2009.

Attest:

Clerk.

Item 1 of 1

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H.CON.RES.51

Title: Recognizing the 50th anniversary of the signing of the **Antarctic Treaty**.
Sponsor: [Rep Tiberi, Patrick J.](#) [OH-12] (introduced 2/12/2009) [Cosponsors](#) (33)
Latest Major Action: 10/1/2009 Referred to Senate committee. Status: Received in the Senate and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

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SUMMARY AS OF:
2/12/2009--Introduced.

Recognizes that the **Antarctic Treaty** has ensured Antarctica's peaceful use and the continuance of international harmony for the past half century.

Encourages international and interdisciplinary collaboration in the **Antarctic Treaty** Summit.

MAJOR ACTIONS:

2/12/2009 Introduced in House
9/30/2009 Passed/agreed to in House: On motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, as amended Agreed to by voice vote.
10/1/2009 Referred to Senate committee: Received in the Senate and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ALL ACTIONS:

2/12/2009: Referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs.
9/30/2009 1:52pm: Mr. Berman moved to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, as amended.
9/30/2009 1:52pm: Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR [H10106-10108](#))
9/30/2009 1:52pm: DEBATE - The House proceeded with forty minutes of debate on [H. Con. Res. 51](#).
9/30/2009 1:57pm: On motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, as amended Agreed to by voice vote. (text: CR [H10106-10107](#))
9/30/2009 1:57pm: Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
10/1/2009: Received in the Senate and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

TITLE(S): *(italics indicate a title for a portion of a bill)*

- OFFICIAL TITLE AS INTRODUCED:
Recognizing the 50th anniversary of the signing of the **Antarctic Treaty**.

COSPONSORS(33), ALPHABETICAL [followed by Cosponsors withdrawn]: (Sort: [by date](#))

Rep Austria, Steve [OH-7] - 6/4/2009	Rep Baird, Brian [WA-3] - 7/14/2009
Rep Bartlett, Roscoe G. [MD-6] - 6/24/2009	Rep Berman, Howard L. [CA-28] - 9/29/2009
Rep Bordallo, Madeleine Z. [GU] - 2/12/2009	Rep Calvert, Ken [CA-44] - 2/12/2009
Rep Carson, Andre [IN-7] - 9/24/2009	Rep Connolly, Gerald E. "Gerry" [VA-11] - 2/12/2009
Rep Crowley, Joseph [NY-7] - 7/23/2009	Rep Dahlkemper, Kathleen A. [PA-3] - 2/12/2009
Rep Ehlers, Vernon J. [MI-3] - 2/12/2009	Rep Faleomavaega, Eni F.H. [AS] - 6/11/2009
Rep Farr, Sam [CA-17] - 2/12/2009	Rep Fudge, Marcia L. [OH-11] - 7/16/2009
Rep Gordon, Bart [TN-6] - 2/12/2009	Rep Hinchey, Maurice D. [NY-22] - 2/12/2009
Rep Inglis, Bob [SC-4] - 2/12/2009	Rep Jackson-Lee, Sheila [TX-18] - 7/23/2009
Rep LaTourette, Steven C. [OH-14] - 7/16/2009	Rep Lipinski, Daniel [IL-3] - 7/17/2009
Rep McCotter, Thaddeus G. [MI-11] - 2/12/2009	Rep Michaud, Michael H. [ME-2] - 6/4/2009
Rep Pascrell, Bill, Jr. [NJ-8] - 7/16/2009	Rep Pence, Mike [IN-6] - 7/23/2009
Rep Peters, Gary C. [MI-9] - 7/16/2009	Rep Petri, Thomas E. [WI-6] - 2/12/2009
Rep Poe, Ted [TX-2] - 2/12/2009	Rep Schmidt, Jean [OH-2] - 7/17/2009
Rep Sires, Albio [NJ-13] - 7/23/2009	Rep Turner, Michael R. [OH-3] - 2/12/2009
Rep Watson, Diane E. [CA-33] - 7/23/2009	Rep Wilson, Joe [SC-2] - 7/23/2009
Rep Wu, David [OR-1] - 7/17/2009	

COMMITTEE(S):

Committee/Subcommittee:	Activity:
House Foreign Affairs	Referral
Senate Foreign Relations	Referral, In Committee

RELATED BILL DETAILS:

NONE

AMENDMENT(S):

NONE