

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 3

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1998 Regular Session
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By: **Senators Hoffman, Kelley, Lawlah, Frosh, Green, Pinsky, Trotter,
Hollinger, Blount, Derr, Sfikas, Ruben, Teitelbaum, McFadden, Dyson,
Conway, ~~and Miller~~ Miller, and Middleton**

Introduced and read first time: January 22, 1998
Assigned to: Economic and Environmental Affairs

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments
Senate action: Adopted
Read second time: February 24, 1998

RESOLUTION NO. _____

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A Senate Joint Resolution concerning

2 **International Ban on Antipersonnel Land Mines**

3 FOR the purpose of urging the President and Congress of the United States to
4 actively participate in the Ottawa Process and to take action to negotiate an
5 international ban on the manufacture, stockpiling, transfer, and use of
6 antipersonnel land mines.

7 WHEREAS, Antipersonnel land mines kill or maim an average of 71 persons per
8 day, the majority of whom are civilians; and

9 WHEREAS, The estimated 80,000,000 to 110,000,000 antipersonnel land mines
10 strewn across at least 64 countries cause havoc in the economies of developing
11 nations: refugees cannot return home, farmers cannot till fields, relief shipments
12 cannot be delivered, herd animals cannot approach water holes, health care systems
13 are overwhelmed by land mine victims, and clearance costs are extraordinary; and

14 WHEREAS, The antipersonnel land mines render arable land useless and
15 contribute to over-farming of suitable land, and their ecological and economic impact
16 has yet to be fully calculated; and

17 WHEREAS, The United States has been a major producer and exporter of
18 antipersonnel land mines for more than 25 years; and

19 WHEREAS, U.S. taxpayers spent approximately \$17,000,000 from 1989 to 1996
20 for salaries, equipment, transportation, and other costs for removing antipersonnel
21 land mines in other countries; and

1 WHEREAS, Despite international momentum for a global ban on antipersonnel
2 land mines, a recent United Nations conference failed to negotiate a ban; and

3 WHEREAS, At the Ottawa International Strategy Conference in Ottawa,
4 Canada in October 1996, the governments of 50 nations adopted the "Ottawa Process"
5 recognizing the urgent need for a ban on antipersonnel land mines and outlined
6 actions for reaching a ban rapidly; ~~now therefore, be it and~~

7 WHEREAS, In December 1997, the Ottawa Treaty, The Convention on the
8 Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Land
9 Mines and Their Destruction was signed by 125 nations, the United States not among
10 them; now, therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the
12 President of the United States and the Congress of the United States are respectfully
13 urged to actively participate in the Ottawa Process and to take action to negotiate an
14 international ban on the manufacture, stockpiling, transfer, and use of antipersonnel
15 land mines, with a view to completing the negotiations as soon as possible; and be it
16 further

17 RESOLVED, That the President of the United States and the Congress of the
18 United States are respectfully urged to resist any efforts to cancel or weaken the
19 current moratorium on the United States' use of anti-personnel land mines; and be it
20 further

21 RESOLVED, That the President of the United States and the Congress of the
22 United States are respectfully urged to take the steps necessary to codify the
23 President's goals to end the United States' use of all anti-personnel land mines by the
24 year 2006, thereby establishing a date certain for the United States to sign the
25 Ottawa Treaty; and be it further

26 RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of
27 Legislative Services to the President of the United States; the Presiding Officers of
28 each branch of the United States Congress; and the Maryland Congressional
29 Delegation: Senators Paul S. Sarbanes and Barbara A. Mikulski, Senate Office
30 Building, Washington, D.C. 20510; and Representatives Wayne T. Gilchrest, Robert L.
31 Ehrlich, Jr., Benjamin L. Cardin, Albert R. Wynn, Steny Hamilton Hoyer, Roscoe G.
32 Bartlett, Elijah E. Cummings, and Constance A. Morella, House Office Building,
33 Washington, D.C. 20515.