

SENATE CS FOR CS FOR SS FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 49(RES)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTIETH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE SENATE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Offered: 2/19/98

Referred: Rules

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES WILLIAMS, Austerman, Hodgins, Hudson, Green, Brice, Rokeberg, Therriault

SENATORS Donley, Taylor, Leman, Sharp, Pearce, Wilken, Mackie, Torgerson, Green, Kelly, Miller, Duncan

A RESOLUTION

1 Relating to opposition to a moratorium on the building of roads in the roadless
2 areas of national forests.

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

4 **WHEREAS** the Clinton Administration has directed the United States Department of
5 Agriculture to establish an interim policy regarding roadless areas in national forests; and

6 **WHEREAS** the United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, is
7 considering a proposed two-year moratorium on the building of roads in those roadless areas;
8 and

9 **WHEREAS** the National Forest Management Act of 1976 requires that amendments
10 to a forest plan be done in accordance with regulations that, among other things, allow the
11 public to participate in the development, review, and revision of land management plans for
12 national forests such as the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest; and

13 **WHEREAS** the Chugach National Forest land management plan revision was initiated
14 in April of 1997, and this plan revision process is the appropriate venue for addressing road
15 building and roadless area issues in the Chugach National Forest; and

16 **WHEREAS**, after an extensive public process, the Tongass Land Management Plan

1 has already considered the management of roadless areas on the Tongass National Forest; and
2 **WHEREAS** the application of such a moratorium to the Tongass National Forest
3 would be a unilateral amendment to the Tongass Land Management Plan, which the Forest
4 Service has just revised at a cost to taxpayers exceeding \$13,000,000; and

5 **WHEREAS**, under the Tongass Land Management Plan, the United States Department
6 of Agriculture, Forest Service, plans to offer an average of only 200,000,000 board feet of
7 timber annually, which is far below the 300,000,000 board feet needed for the timber industry
8 as determined by the Governor's Timber Task Force; and

9 **WHEREAS** the proposed moratorium could eliminate the timber industry that remains
10 in Southeast Alaska by reducing the allowable sale quantity on the Tongass National Forest
11 to nearly zero; and

12 **WHEREAS** application of the proposed moratorium in the state also violates the spirit
13 of the "no more" provision of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act
14 (ANILCA), which prohibits federal agencies from establishing new wilderness areas in the
15 state without an act of Congress;

16 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature opposes any moratorium on the
17 development of the roadless areas of national forests that overrides the forest planning process
18 provided for by the National Forest Management Act of 1976, which allows full public
19 participation in decisions affecting the multiple use of national forest lands; and be it

20 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature opposes any moratorium,
21 restriction, or unilateral amendment to the Tongass Land Management Plan and the Chugach
22 Land Management Plan that overrides the forest planning process required by the National
23 Forest Management Act of 1976, which allows full public participation in decisions affecting
24 the multiple use of national forest lands.

25 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Bill Clinton, President of the
26 United States; the Honorable Al Gore, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and President
27 of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Dan Glickman, Secretary of Agriculture; and to the
28 Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the
29 Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.