

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 8

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

NINETEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATORS DUNCAN, Zharoff

Introduced: 1/16/95

Referred: Resources

A RESOLUTION

1 **Relating to the United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, report**
2 **known as the "Reinvention of the Forest Service"; and opposing the**
3 **recommendation in that report of combining the Alaska Region of the Forest**
4 **Service with another region and of moving the regional forest service office from**
5 **Alaska.**

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

7 **WHEREAS** the United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, has issued
8 a report called the "Reinvention of the Forest Service"; and

9 **WHEREAS** the United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, is responsible
10 for multiple-use management and protection of the two national forests located in Alaska, the
11 Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest; and

12 **WHEREAS** the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest are the
13 largest national forests in the United States; and

14 **WHEREAS** the Tongass National Forest encompasses 17,000,000 acres, and the
15 Chugach National Forest, 5,600,000 acres; and

1 **WHEREAS** both national forests have unique physical and environmental conditions
2 and wildlife and habitat needs; and

3 **WHEREAS** the Tongass National Forest and Chugach National Forest play an
4 important role in the diversified economies of Southeast and Southcentral Alaska by providing
5 timber and other resources, and by providing opportunities for commercial and sport fisheries,
6 tourism and recreational activities, and subsistence hunting and fishing; and

7 **WHEREAS** multiple use of national forests in Alaska is defined not just by the
8 Multiple Use Sustained Yield Act of 1960 and the respective forests' land management plans,
9 as on national forests in other states, but also by the Alaska National Interest Lands
10 Conservation Act (ANILCA); and

11 **WHEREAS** the "Reinvention of the Forest Service" report proposes the merger of the
12 Alaska Region of the Forest Service with the Pacific Northwest Region; and

13 **WHEREAS** the "Reinvention of the Forest Service" report also proposes to move the
14 Alaska Region Forest Service office from Juneau, Alaska, to Portland, Oregon; and

15 **WHEREAS** moving the Regional Forester's office to Portland would diminish the
16 ability of the Forest Service to effectively manage and protect the Tongass National Forest in
17 Southeast Alaska and the Chugach National Forest in Southcentral Alaska; and

18 **WHEREAS** moving the Alaska Region Forest Service office to Portland and merging
19 the Alaska Region with the Pacific Northwest Region would result in a loss of jobs in
20 Southeast and Southcentral Alaska; and

21 **WHEREAS** moving the Alaska Region Forest Service office to Portland could affect
22 public participation in Forest Service decisions and state, local, and tribal government
23 interests;

24 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests that the
25 U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, reconsider its proposal to merge the Alaska
26 Region with the Pacific Northwest Region; and be it

27 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Forest Service retain a regional office in Juneau to
28 maintain a strong management presence in Alaska so as to better provide for the utilization
29 and protection of the unique forest service resources in Alaska; and be it

30 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Forest Service balance any reductions in jobs to
31 protect the unique multiple-use mandates of both the Tongass National Forest and Chugach

1 National Forest.

2 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Dan Glickman, Secretary of
3 Agriculture; the Honorable Bruce Babbitt, Secretary of the Interior; Jack Ward Thomas, Chief
4 of the Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and
5 the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S.
6 Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.