

**CS FOR SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 12(RES)**

**IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA**

**NINETEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION**

**BY THE SENATE RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

**Offered: 2/14/95**

**Referred: Rules**

**Sponsor(s): SENATORS TAYLOR, Pearce**

**REPRESENTATIVE Williams**

**A RESOLUTION**

**1 Relating to the United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service; relating**  
**2 to the United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, strategic plan**  
**3 known as "Reinvention of the Forest Service"; and advocating that implementation**  
**4 of the plan be suspended pending Congressional review and consultation with local**  
**5 governments.**

**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 new strategic plan known as "Reinvention of the Forest Service"; and**

**9 WHEREAS** this plan has far-reaching implications and was developed without  
**10 consultation with key elected leaders, including state governors, members of the United States**  
**11 Congress, or community, tribal government, and the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act**  
**12 (ANCSA) corporate leaders in contradiction of President Clinton's Executive Order No. 12875**  
**13 "Enhancing Intergovernmental Partnerships"; and**

**14 WHEREAS** Vice-President Gore's "Report on Reinventing Government" was  
**15 developed with the promised intent of empowering local governments and decentralizing**

1 decision-making power; and

2           **WHEREAS** the "Reinvention of the Forest Service" strategic plan approved by  
3 Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy, just before his resignation, eliminates the very foundation  
4 of locally based authority that had the responsibility of working with states, local communities,  
5 tribal governments, and ANCSA corporations and masks and diffuses decision-making  
6 authority and withdraws it to Washington, D.C., making the Forest Service less responsive to  
7 local concerns; and

8           **WHEREAS** moving the Alaska Region Forest Service office to Portland, Oregon, is  
9 an example of the flawed science being used to define ecosystems and ecological boundaries;  
10 and

11           **WHEREAS** the newly defined purpose of the Forest Service to promote the  
12 sustainability of ecosystems without specifically retaining the traditional Forest Service  
13 objective of promoting community stability has already created problems and crises for  
14 hundreds of communities dependent upon the national forests and state and private forest  
15 ecosystems; and

16           **WHEREAS** the new strategic plan has seemingly turned away from commitment  
17 towards providing a continuous flow of renewable resources to meet the public need, as  
18 directed in the Organic Act, Multiple-Use Sustained Yield Act of 1960, the National Forest  
19 Management Act, and other Acts of the Congress; and

20           **WHEREAS**, under the new strategic plan, the Forest Service is more inclined to  
21 present a nebulous plan for ecosystem management where resource yields are simply the  
22 by-products of management, with no predictable flows or commitments to supply levels to  
23 sustain human life;

24           **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature calls upon the newly designated  
25 Secretary of Agriculture to suspend implementation of the reinvention project's strategic plan  
26 approved by Secretary Espy to allow for Congressional review and for consultation with local  
27 governments; and be it

28           **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the United States Department of Agriculture, Forest  
29 Service, conduct true partnership meetings with states, communities, tribal governments, and

1 ANCSA corporations to develop a new strategic plan; and be it

2 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Forest Service acknowledge the United States  
3 Department of Agriculture's legal obligations to rebuild, restore, and promote the economic  
4 stability of forest dependent communities; and be it

5 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that, in keeping with federal law, timber commodities are  
6 a primary not a residual value of forest management; and be it

7 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that Forest Service employee compensation and cost-of-  
8 living allowance be reflective of timber production, and be it

9 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the United States Department of Agriculture, Forest  
10 Service, through a true partnership with local communities, identify and implement strategies  
11 for decentralizing decision making and empowering state and local governments to more  
12 effectively manage forest ecosystems to assure community stability, improve service to the  
13 public, and reduce government cost.

14 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Bill Clinton, President of the  
15 United States; the Honorable Al Gore, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and President  
16 of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Dan Glickman, Secretary of Agriculture; the Honorable  
17 Bruce Babbitt, Secretary of the Interior; Jack Ward Thomas, Chief of the Forest Service, U.S.  
18 Department of Agriculture; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank  
19 Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of  
20 the Alaska delegation in Congress.