

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

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

NINETEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE HOUSE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Offered: 4/10/95

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

31 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Forest Service acknowledge the United States

1 Department of Agriculture's legal obligations to rebuild, restore, and promote the economic
2 stability of forest dependent communities; and be it

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

5 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the compensation and cost-of-living allowance of the
6 Secretary of Agriculture and the Chief and each Regional Forester of the Forest Service be
7 reflective of timber production; and be it

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

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