

STATE OF ALASKA
THE LEGISLATURE

1998

Source

SCS CSSSHJR 49(RES)

Legislative
Resolve No.

50



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

has already considered the management of roadless areas on the Tongass National Forest; and

WHEREAS the application of such a moratorium to the Tongass National Forest would be a unilateral amendment to the Tongass Land Management Plan, which the Forest Service has just revised at a cost to taxpayers exceeding \$13,000,000; and

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

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

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

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

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

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