

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 49

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTIETH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES WILLIAMS, Austerman

Introduced: 1/20/98

Referred: Resources

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 implement an interim policy regarding roadless areas in national forests that
6 would place a two-year moratorium on the building of roads in those roadless areas; and

7 WHEREAS the application of such a moratorium would be especially inappropriate
**8 on the Tongass National Forest as that forest has recently completed a revision of the Tongass
9 Land Management Plan at a cost to taxpayers exceeding \$13,000,000; and**

10 WHEREAS, after an extensive public process, the Tongass Land Management Plan
11 has already considered the management of roadless areas on the Tongass National Forest; and

12 WHEREAS, under the Tongass Land Management Plan, the United States Department
**13 of Agriculture, Forest Service, plans to offer an average of only \$200,000,000 board feet of
14 timber annually, which is far below the level needed for the timber industry that remains in
15 the area; and**

16 WHEREAS the proposed moratorium could eliminate the timber industry that remains

1 in Southeast Alaska by further reducing the commercial forest lands available for harvest on
2 the Tongass National Forest; and

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

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

11 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature particularly objects to the
12 imposition of an interim policy that includes a moratorium on the development of roadless
13 areas on the Tongass National Forest that would result in any reduction in the commercial
14 forest lands available for harvest beyond the restriction embodied in the current Tongass Land
15 Management Plan.

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