

**SPONSOR SUBSTITUTE FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 49**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTIETH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

**BY REPRESENTATIVES WILLIAMS, Austerman, Hodgins, Hudson**

**Introduced: 1/23/98**

**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 establish an interim policy regarding roadless areas in national forests; and

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

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

**12 WHEREAS** the National Forest Management Act of 1976 requires that the public be  
**13 allowed to participate** in the development, review, and revision of land management plans for  
**14 national forests** such as the Tongass National Forest; and

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

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

5           **WHEREAS** the proposed moratorium could eliminate the timber industry that remains  
6 in Southeast Alaska by further reducing the commercial forest lands available for harvest on  
7 the Tongass National Forest; and

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

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

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

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