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Referred: Resources

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1 IN THE HOUSE

2 HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 16

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 FIFTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Expressing concern of the legislature
6 over underdevelopment of the logging
7 industry in the interior of Alaska and
8 urging its future development.

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

10 WHEREAS there is presently 22.5 million acres of commercial forest land
11 in the Alaska interior capable of producing a minimum of 8,000 board feet per
12 acre of excellent quality lumber; and

13 WHEREAS this 22.5 million acres of forest land is either economically
14 accessible now or in the foreseeable future and has not been withdrawn from
15 timber utilization; and

16 WHEREAS all of these commercial forests lie within the valleys of the
17 major rivers of the state rendering them highly accessible by rail; and

18 WHEREAS these stands of spruce and hardwoods are at prime to past prime
19 maturity after over 200 years of growth; and

20 WHEREAS many millions of board feet of prime timber stock is irretriev-
21 ably lost each year due to overmaturity; and

22 WHEREAS strategic location of pulp and sawmill installations could
23 conceivably cure the presently incurable problem of chronic unemployment in
24 the interior; and

25 WHEREAS timber on lands presently disputed in the Native Land Claims
26 could be logged thus preventing waste of this valuable resource and the
27 proceeds from such logging operations placed in escrow or in the courts
28 pending the final outcome of these claims;

29 BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature respectfully requests the Governor

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1 to make a study of the potential development of the interior forests of the
2 state and to nurture this potential to fruition.
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