

Introduced: 2/23/70
Referred: Judiciary

BY THE RULES COMMITTEE
BY REQUEST

1 IN THE HOUSE

2 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 104

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 SIXTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Relating to the court action filed by
6 the Sierra Club and the Sitka Conser-
7 vation Society concerning U. S. Plywood-
8 Champion Papers, Inc.

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

10 WHEREAS the Sierra Club (a California-based organization) and the
11 Sitka Conservation Society recently filed a court action challenging the
12 legality of the U.S. Forest Service logging contract with U.S. Plywood-
13 Champion Papers, Inc.; and

14 WHEREAS the State of Alaska, the Greater Juneau Borough, and the City
15 of Juneau have indicated their desire that U.S. Plywood-Champion Papers,
16 Inc. locate a pulp mill at Berners Bay, Alaska, by granting the company
17 industrial tax credit incentives; and

18 WHEREAS U.S. Plywood-Champion Papers, Inc. has in good faith entered
19 into a contract for the sale of the production of its proposed pulp mill
20 at Berners Bay, relying on its contract with the U.S. Forest Service; and

21 WHEREAS U.S. Plywood-Champion Papers, Inc. has indicated that every
22 consideration will be given to the protection of the ecology of the area
23 and the well-being of its citizens by retaining an eminent board of inde-
24 pendent ecologists to oversee all phases of mill construction and timber
25 harvesting; and

26 WHEREAS the filing of this suit is untimely because it was not filed
27 until U.S. Plywood-Champion Papers, Inc. had signed contracts for the sale
28 of the total output of the pulp mill and had incurred expenses in anticipa-
29 tion of operation; and

1 WHEREAS the prosecution of this suit could result in:

2 (1) lengthy litigation that would delay progress;

3 (2) contract default by U.S. Plywood-Champion Papers, Inc.

through no fault of its own;

4 (3) deprivation of the residents of Southeastern Alaska of the
5 benefits of development;

6 (4) damage to the reputation of Alaska as a place friendly to
7 business;

8 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Legislature urges the Sierra Club and
9 the Sitka Conservation Society to withdraw the court action.

10 COPIES of this Resolution shall be sent to the national headquarters of
11 the Sierra Club in California and the Sitka Conservation Society.
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