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1 IN THE HOUSE

2 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 13

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 NINTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Relating to the Perenosia timber sale

6 on Afognak Island.

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

8 WHEREAS the Perenosia timber sale on Afognak Island is presently being  
9 pursued in the face of widespread opposition from the public, the Kodiak  
10 borough, local legislators, and Koniag, Inc., the local Native corporation;  
11 and

12 WHEREAS questions raised in administrative appeals, including the un-  
13 certainty of reforestation, the effect of herbicides, insecticides and road  
14 building on salmon spawning streams, and the elimination of critical elk and  
15 bear habitat, have never been satisfactorily answered by the Forest Service;  
16 and

17 WHEREAS repeated requests for a stay of activities pending appeal were  
18 turned down by the Forest Service; and

19 WHEREAS the wildlife, commercial and sport fish, and recreational re-  
20 sources within the sale area are extremely valuable to the citizens of the  
21 state and will be particularly important in satisfying the growing recrea-  
22 tional demands of Anchorage and the entire southcentral area; and

23 WHEREAS since the sale was made, land selections by Native corporations  
24 on Afognak seriously limit the amount of suitable land available for general  
25 public use and further question the advisability of committing 120,000 acres  
26 to single purpose use at this time; and

27 WHEREAS the Forest Service's own Forestry Sciences Laboratory, which  
28 cautioned against large-scale logging on Afognak until more is known about the  
29 island's soil instability and special reforestation problems, was largely

1 ignored; and

2 WHEREAS large-scale cutting of Afognak timber, bound for Japan, ignores  
3 the larger public need for a balanced utilization of Alaska resources and  
4 provides little more than a minimal dollar return for Alaskans; and

5 WHEREAS this return, only 25 per cent of the net sale price, is only a  
6 token amount considering the probability of having to hand plant seedlings,  
7 the loss of recreational resources to the state, the added services required,  
8 and the degradation of critical commercial crab and salmon spawning and  
9 rearing areas;

10 BE IT RESOLVED that the Ninth Alaska State Legislature respectfully  
11 requests the Secretary of Agriculture to negotiate for bilateral cancellation  
12 of the Perenosia timber sale contract, based on changed circumstances and  
13 public protest, or, as a minimum alternative, modify the present contract to  
14 better protect the nontimber public resources of the area, including a re-  
15 evaluation of the size and location of the cutting areas, and provision for  
16 protection of state waters from pollution.

17 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Earl Butz,  
18 Secretary, Department of Agriculture; the Honorable John B. McGuire, Chief,  
19 United States Forest Service; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the  
20 Honorable Mike Gravel, U. S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U. S.  
21 Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.