

Introduced: 3/3/75  
Referred: Resources

1 IN THE SENATE

BY ZIEGLER

2 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 17 *am H*

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 NINTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Relating to the possible closure of the  
6 Ketchikan Pulp Company.

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

8 WHEREAS Ketchikan Pulp Company has announced that it may have to cease  
9 operations because of environmental expenditures of up to \$34,000,000 being  
10 required by the 1972 amendments to the Federal Water Pollution Control Act;  
11 and

12 WHEREAS the expenditures required, which would be to provide for second-  
13 ary effluent treatment, approach the initial investment required of the  
14 company to begin operations in 1954 -- approximately \$50,000; and

15 WHEREAS Ketchikan Pulp Company has a modern, innovative, chemical re-  
16 covery process which is a celebrated model for the industry and leads, today,  
17 in environmental cleanliness; and

18 WHEREAS the requirements of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act are  
19 to be applied in the same manner to sprawling urban areas as to isolated  
20 single industry communities; and

21 WHEREAS viable alternatives must be derived as even if the required  
22 expenditures were to be made, they would be approximately two to four times  
23 that of the company's dissolving pulp competition, and would result in dis-  
24 proportionate costs, thus providing no base for competitive profit and hence  
25 would mean assured economic failure, while at the same time offering little,  
26 if any, improvement in water quality; and

27 WHEREAS Ketchikan Pulp serves as the economic base of the community,  
28 contributing prosperity, stability and peace of mind to the area's people;  
29 and

1           WHEREAS closure of this viable industry would bring instantaneous unem-  
2 ployment to more than a thousand people and adversely affect directly another  
3 twelve thousand, as well as mean a giant loss of revenue to the state and to  
4 the federal government; and

5           WHEREAS an extended ocean outfall for the mill's effluent has been pro-  
6 posed as an alternative to secondary effluent treatment and persons with  
7 expertise in the field are of the opinion such an alternative would be ade-  
8 quate, although not conforming to the letter of the law as it is now written;

9           BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the United States  
10 Congress is urgently requested to immediately reexamine and re-evaluate the  
11 1972 amendments to the Federal Water Pollution Control Act with the objective  
12 of establishing standards appropriate for differing locations and circum-  
13 stances existing throughout the country in order to make the law equitable  
14 and yet assure high water quality controls; and be it

15           FURTHER RESOLVED that the National Commission on Water Quality which is  
16 investigating the impact of the 1972 amendments take into consideration the  
17 existing inequitable and inappropriate requirements of the amendments as  
18 applied across the board indiscriminately.

19           COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Gerald R. Ford,  
20 President of the United States; the Honorable Nelson A. Rockefeller, Vice-  
21 President of the United States and Chairman, National Commission on Water  
22 Quality; the Honorable Russell E. Train, Administrator, Environmental Pro-  
23 tection Agency; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Mike  
24 Gravel, U. S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U. S. Representative,  
25 members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.  
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