

1 IN THE SENATE

BY ZIEGLER AND MELAND

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO.17 am H

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

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NINTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

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Relating to the possible closure of the

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Ketchikan Pulp Company.

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

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WHEREAS Ketchikan Pulp Company has announced that it may have to cease

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operations because of environmental expenditures of up to \$34,000,000 being

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required by the 1972 amendments to the Federal Water Pollution Control Act;

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and

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WHEREAS the expenditures required, which would be to provide for second-

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dary effluent treatment, approach the initial investment required of the

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company to begin operations in 1954 -- approximately \$50,000,000; and

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WHEREAS Ketchikan Pulp Company has a modern, innovative, chemical re-

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covery process which is a celebrated model for the industry and leads, today,

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in environmental cleanliness; and

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WHEREAS the requirements of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act are

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to be applied in the same manner to sprawling urban areas as to isolated

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single industry communities; and

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WHEREAS viable alternatives must be derived as even if the required

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expenditures were to be made, they would be approximately two to four times

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that of the company's dissolving pulp competition, and would result in dis-

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proportionate costs, thus providing no base for competitive profit and hence

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would mean assured economic failure, while at the same time offering little,

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if any, improvement in water quality; and

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WHEREAS Ketchikan Pulp serves as the economic base of the community,

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contributing prosperity, stability and peace of mind to the area's people;

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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; the Honorable Edmund S. Muskie, U. S. Senator, Chairman, Air  
24 and Water Pollution sub-committee, Senate Committee on Public Works; and to  
25 the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Mike Gravel, U. S. Senators, and  
26 the Honorable Don Young, U. S. Representative, members of the Alaska delega-  
27 tion in Congress.