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Referred: Resources

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1 IN THE SENATE

2 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 36

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 TENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Relating to land allocation in the Tongass  
6 National Forest.

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

8 WHEREAS land allocation recommendations for the Tongass National Forest  
9 are presently being prepared by the U. S. Forest Service in accordance with  
10 the Tongass Land Use Management Plan; and

11 WHEREAS the Tongass Land Use Management Plan process is designed to in-  
12 corporate and coordinate data on all of the forest's multiple resource values,  
13 citizen's comments, socio-economic data, and transportation information; and

14 WHEREAS the Tongass Land Use Management Plan process will not be com-  
15 pleted until June 1, 1978; and

16 WHEREAS existing jobs in fishing, mining, timber, and tourism industries  
17 depend upon careful analysis of the data to be derived from the Tongass Land  
18 Use Management Plan; and

19 WHEREAS the Alaska State Legislature favors a balanced, moderate solution  
20 to the Tongass land allocation problem which will protect existing and poten-  
21 tial jobs in the fishing, mining, timber, and tourism industries, allow for  
22 moderate growth in these industries, and protect roadless resource values; and

23 WHEREAS the Federal Administration is presently in the process of making  
24 its own land allocation recommendations for the Tongass in advance of com-  
25 pletion of the Tongass Land Use Management Plan, in spite of the statement by  
26 Assistant Secretary of Agriculture Cutler to the House Interior Subcommittee  
27 on General Oversight in Alaska Land on September 15, 1977 that: "With the  
28 exception of Admiralty Island, we are just not yet at a stage where we can  
29 adequately differentiate among these areas as to their quality or suggest

1 precise boundaries and acreages. And, we do not have an adequate basis at  
2 this time for weighing resource trade-offs and impacts.

3 "To reach this position we need to devote just a few more months to com-  
4 pletion of our Tongass National Forest Land Management Plan, and to wrap up  
5 the inventory and analysis of roadless areas in the Tongass and Chugach  
6 National Forests. These additional few months will permit us to acquire the  
7 additional information and public input needed to make sound recommendations  
8 to you and will enable us to provide the Subcommittee with important infor-  
9 mation as well."; and

10 WHEREAS the recommendations which Assistant Secretary Cutler announced  
11 to Congressman John Seiberling on January 12, 1978 (in advance of clearance  
12 from the Office of Management and Budget) would appear to cause a loss of  
13 existing and potential jobs in the fishing, mining, timber, and tourism  
14 industries and may interfere with Native and State selections of land in the  
15 Tongass National Forest; and

16 WHEREAS, in any event, such recommendations in advance of completion of  
17 the Tongass Land Use Management Plan would preempt the public comment process  
18 in which the State of Alaska and the people of the State of Alaska have  
19 participated;

20 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the Federal Adminis-  
21 tration is requested to make no recommendations regarding land allocation in  
22 the Tongass National Forest until completion of the Tongass Land Use Manage-  
23 ment Plan through the normal administrative process.

24 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Jimmy Carter,  
25 President of the United States; the Honorable Bob S. Bergland, Secretary of  
26 Agriculture; and the Honorable Cecil D. Andrus, Secretary of the Interior.