

1 IN THE SENATE

BY THE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

2 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 53

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 TENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Requesting the United States Forest Service
6 not to conduct controlled burns in areas of
7 the Chugach National Forests adjacent to
8 human habitation or highways.

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

10 WHEREAS officials of the United States Forest Service have given notice
11 of their intent to conduct controlled burns within portions of the Kenai
12 Peninsula Borough in the Chugach National Forest; and

13 WHEREAS the justifications cited for conducting controlled burns include
14 improvement of moose habitat and minimization of vehicular accidents in-
15 volving moose; and

16 WHEREAS environmental impact statements cited in conjunction with the
17 plan to undertake controlled burning indicate public support for the acti-
18 vity; and

19 WHEREAS there is ample evidence to suggest that controlled burning of
20 vegetation near highways does little to prevent moose - vehicle accidents or
21 alter moose browsing habits; and

22 WHEREAS a substantial number of individuals resident in the areas
23 adjacent to proposed controlled burns have spoken out strongly in opposition
24 to the proposal; and

25 WHEREAS controlled burning adjacent to public thoroughfares and private
26 property is detrimental to the appearance and resistance to erosion of burned
27 areas, substantially increases the chance of harm to human and animal popula-
28 tions, and minimizes the value of areas burned and immediately adjacent areas
29 for residential and recreational purposes;

1 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests
2 the United States Forest Service not to conduct controlled burns in areas of
3 the Chugach National Forest adjacent to human habitation or highways.

4 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Bob Bergland,
5 Secretary, Department of Agriculture; Mr. John R. McGuire, Chief of the
6 United States Forest Service; Mr. John Sandor, Regional Forester; Mr. Clay G.
7 Beal, Supervisor, Chugach National Forest; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens
8 and the Honorable Mike Gravel, U. S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young,
9 U. S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.

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