

1 IN THE SENATE

BY THE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
BY REQUEST

2 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO.55

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 TENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Relating to the use of herbicides in the
6 Tongass and Chugach National Forests.

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

8 WHEREAS the U. S. Forest Service is proposing to apply herbicides on
9 railroad, highway, and powerline rights-of-way, around airfields, and in
10 other locations in the Tongass and Chugach National Forests; and

11 WHEREAS accidental misuse of these chemicals exposes persons handling
12 them to serious danger; and

13 WHEREAS foliage treated with herbicides turns unsightly brown, and the
14 noise and odor associated with application is also offensive to the senses;
15 and

16 WHEREAS unavoidable volatilization of herbicides pollutes the air, and
17 accidental spills, wind drift from adjacent areas, and herbicides carried by
18 rainwater runoff can contaminate streams; and

19 WHEREAS little is known about possible latent effects of these chemicals
20 nor is much known about the effect of these chemicals in situations reflect-
21 ing a combination of environmental factors; and

22 WHEREAS there are alternative methods of removal of unwanted foliage,
23 including mechanical and physical removal, biological controls, and where
24 possible, fire;

25 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests
26 the U. S. Forest Service to desist from the use of herbicides in Alaska.

27 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Bob Bergland,
28 Secretary of the Department of Agriculture; the Honorable John R. McGuire,
29 Chief, U. S. Forest Service; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honor-

1 able Mike Gravel, U. S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U. S. Repre-
2 sentative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.

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