

Introduced: 2/6/79
Referred: Resources

BY ZIEGLER, MELAND,
COLLETTA AND RAY

1 IN THE SENATE

2 SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 3

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

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

7 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE:

8 WHEREAS, in May, 1977, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for Conserva-
9 tion, Research and Education M. Rupert Cutler announced that the United
10 States Forest Service would make a second review and evaluation of roadless
11 areas in the National Forest System (RARE II), the purpose of which was to
12 allocate roadless areas in the National Forest System to wilderness, further
13 wilderness study, or multiple use; and

14 WHEREAS, in May, 1977, Secretary Cutler announced that RARE II in the
15 Tongass National Forest would be accomplished through the Tongass Land
16 Management Plan which was then being prepared by the U. S. Forest Service in
17 accordance with the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act;
18 and

19 WHEREAS the Tongass Land Management Plan is designed to incorporate and
20 coordinate data on all of the forest multiple resource values, citizens'
21 comments, socio-economic data and transportation information; and

22 WHEREAS, in February, 1978, before the completion of the Tongass Land
23 Management Plan and without the preparation of an environmental impact state-
24 ment, Secretary Cutler released the so-called "Administration Proposal for
25 the Tongass National Forest" which proposal would have had a significant
26 impact upon the timber, mining, hydroelectric, fishing, and tourism indus-
27 tries, and thereby adversely affect the economy of Southeastern Alaska; and

28 WHEREAS, in June, 1978, the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the
29 Tongass Land Management Plan was released, which included a proposal prepared

1 by an interdisciplinary team which would have had a significantly smaller
2 impact upon the timber, mining, hydroelectric, fishing, and tourism indus-
3 tries than that released by the Carter Administration on February 1, 1978;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, in a letter dated August 4, 1978, the State of Alaska responded
6 to the Tongass Land Management Plan Draft Environmental Impact Statement in
7 general support of the interdisciplinary team recommendation with the provi-
8 sion of a mechanism to assure adequate timber to the industry should the
9 team's economic assumptions prove to be erroneous, and this proposal would
10 have had a substantially smaller impact upon the timber, mining, hydro-
11 electric, fishing, and tourism industries in Southeastern Alaska than the
12 Carter Administration's February 1, 1978 proposal; and

13 WHEREAS public input to the Tongass Land Management Plan Draft Environ-
14 mental Impact Statement from both the public and the municipal governments
15 favored the proposal advanced by the Southeast Chapter of the Citizens for
16 the Management of Alaska Lands which would have protected the existing
17 timber, fishing, and tourism industries and provided continued hydroelectric,
18 fisheries enhancement facility siting and mining opportunities in South-
19 eastern Alaska; and

20 WHEREAS, in September, 1978, before the completion of the Tongass Land
21 Management Plan and without an environmental impact statement for it,
22 Secretary of Agriculture Bob Bergland transmitted the Carter Administration
23 proposal for the Tongass National Forest to the Senate Committee on Energy
24 and Natural Resources, which proposal was in all significant respects the
25 same as the Carter Administration's February 1, 1978 proposal; and

26 WHEREAS, in October, 1978, the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural
27 Resources reported out a bill which would have had a significantly smaller
28 impact on the timber, mining, hydroelectric, fishing, and tourism industries
29 than the Administration proposal and which bill, as regards Southeastern

1 Alaska, was in substantial accord with the State of Alaska's August 4, 1978
2 position and the proposal of the Southeastern Chapter of the Citizens for the
3 Management of Alaska Lands; and

4 WHEREAS, on October 14, 1978, Congress adjourned without passing any
5 legislation allocating land in the Tongass National Forest; and

6 WHEREAS, on December 1, 1978, before completion of the Tongass Land
7 Management Plan and without an environmental impact statement for the plan,
8 President Carter designated Admiralty Island and Misty Fiord as National
9 Monuments under the purported authority of the Antiquities Act of 1906; and

10 WHEREAS, at the same time and before completion of the Tongass Land
11 Management Plan and without an environmental impact statement for it, Secre-
12 tary of Interior Cecil Andrus withdrew approximately 7,000,000 acres of the
13 Tongass National Forest from mining under the purported authority of section
14 204(b)(1) of the Federal Land Management Policy Act; and

15 WHEREAS, on January 4, 1979, before completion of the Tongass Land
16 Management Plan and without an environmental impact statement for the plan,
17 Secretary of Agriculture Bob Bergland announced that certain areas of the
18 Tongass National Forest were being recommended to Congress for and would
19 thereafter be treated as wilderness as part of the RARE II process, which
20 inclusion was completely at odds with Secretary Cutler's statement of May
21 1977 that the Tongass Land Management Plan would be the vehicle for complet-
22 ing the RARE II process in Southeastern Alaska; and

23 WHEREAS, assuming use of the "A" Base Map shown in the Tongass Land
24 Management Plan Draft Environmental Impact Statement and no increase above
25 the present Region 10 timber management budget, the Carter Administration
26 proposal would provide only 302 MMBF of the 520 MMBF needed to maintain the
27 timber industry which threatens to reduce the timber industry jobs to half
28 their present number and would effectively preclude development of the Lake
29 Grace hydroelectric project near Ketchikan, the U. S. Borax Mine near Quartz

1 Hill in Ketchikan, the Noranda Greens Creek Project on Admiralty Island, and
2 the Inspiration Project on Yakobi Island;

3 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Senate that the Carter Administration
4 is requested to withdraw its RARE II - (d)(2) recommendations for the Tongass
5 National Forest until completion of the Tongass Land Management Plan; and be
6 it

7 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Senate firmly endorses the
8 earliest possible passage of a RARE II or (d)(2) bill which would include a
9 more balanced approach to resource allocation for the Tongass National Forest
10 and would, among other things,

11 (1) provide sufficient timber from the Tongass National Forest to
12 maintain at least the current level of employment without job displacement
13 and without reliance on private (Native) timber;

14 (2) permit known mineral deposits to be developed and exploration
15 continued in areas of high mineral potential;

16 (3) provide for access across national interest lands and maintain
17 the option for future transportation needs;

18 (4) permit expedited development of hydroelectric sites and allow
19 for transmission corridors;

20 (5) provide that fisheries enhancement and rehabilitation, includ-
21 ing aquaculture, be permitted on all suitable sites;

22 (6) provide that traditional and subsistence uses, including
23 commercial fishing, shall be permitted to continue throughout Southeastern
24 Alaska;

25 (7) provide for state management of fish and game on national
26 interest lands in Southeastern Alaska;

27 (8) include Congressional recognition that whatever land alloca-
28 tions are made in Southeastern Alaska represent a Congressional attempt to
29 achieve final national interest withdrawals for Southeastern Alaska and that

1 no further wilderness withdrawals are required.

2 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Jimmy Carter,
3 President of the United States; the Honorable Bob Bergland, Secretary of
4 Agriculture; the Honorable Cecil D. Andrus, Secretary of the Interior; the
5 Honorable Henry M. Jackson, Chairman, Senate Committee on Energy and Natural
6 Resources; the Honorable Herman Talmadge, Chairman, Senate Committee on
7 Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry; the Honorable Thomas S. Foley, Chairman,
8 House Agriculture Committee; the Honorable Morris Udall, Chairman, House
9 Interior Subcommittee; the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Mike
10 Gravel, U. S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U. S. Representative,
11 members of the Alaska delegation in Congress; and to the legislatures of all
12 states impacted by RARE II and their Congressional delegations.

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