

Introduced: 1/10/84
Referred: Resources

BY WENDTE, GRUSSENDORF
AND MCBRIDE

1 IN THE HOUSE

2 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 54

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Supporting variance requests by pulp
6 mills in Southeast Alaska.

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

8 WHEREAS the Environmental Protection Agency is now considering vari-
9 ance requests from the pulp mills in Southeast Alaska; and

10 WHEREAS the pulp mills in Sitka and Ketchikan provide an economic base
11 by employing many residents of Southeast Alaska; and

12 WHEREAS the quality of water and marine life has not been adversely
13 affected by the current effluent discharge from the pulp mills; and

14 WHEREAS the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation has found
15 that continued discharge will not violate state water quality standards and
16 supports the issuance of the variance; and

17 WHEREAS the former Environmental Protection Agency Regional Adminis-
18 trator issued a tentative decision on December 28, 1981, that would have
19 granted the variance; and

20 WHEREAS the variance being considered would enable the pulp mills to
21 continue to treat their waste products in a more efficient and economical
22 manner; and

23 WHEREAS the denial of the variance would constitute treatment for
24 treatment's sake, would create an air pollution problem if the mills did
25 comply and would most likely cause the pulp mills and related facilities to
26 cease operating because the cost of additional waste treatment is prohibi-
27 tive; and

28 WHEREAS the United States Forest Service has determined that the
29 closure of the pulp mills would cause a \$143 million per year loss of

1 income in Southeast Alaska;

2 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature urges that the vari-
3 ances requested by the mills be granted; and be it

4 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature urges the Environ-
5 mental Protection Agency to consider the loss of income in the event of the
6 mills' closure as part of the cost of achieving guideline best practicable
7 technology in determining whether the cost of compliance is wholly out of
8 proportion to the model mill.

9 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Ronald
10 Reagan, President of the United States; the Honorable William Ruckelshaus,
11 Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency; Ernesta Barnes,
12 Regional Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency; and to the
13 Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and
14 the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delega-
15 tion in Congress.