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BY ELIASON, ZIEGLER,
RAY AND FAHRENKAMP

1 IN THE SENATE

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 29

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

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THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

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Supporting variance requests by pulp

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mills in Southeast Alaska.

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

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WHEREAS the Environmental Protection Agency is now considering vari-

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ance requests from the pulp mills in Southeast Alaska; and

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WHEREAS the pulp mills in Sitka and Ketchikan provide an economic base

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by employing many residents of Southeast Alaska; and

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WHEREAS the quality of water and marine life has not been adversely

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affected by the current effluent discharge from the pulp mills; and

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WHEREAS the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation has found

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that continued discharge will not violate state water quality standards and

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supports the issuance of the variance; and

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WHEREAS the former Environmental Protection Agency Regional Adminis-

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trator issued a tentative decision on December 28, 1981, that would have

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granted the variance; and

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WHEREAS the variance being considered would enable the pulp mills to

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continue to treat their waste products in a more efficient and economical

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manner; and

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WHEREAS the denial of the variance would constitute treatment for

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treatment's sake, would create an air pollution problem if the mills did

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comply and would most likely cause the pulp mills and related facilities to

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cease operating because the cost of additional waste treatment is prohibi-

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tive; and

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WHEREAS the United States Forest Service has determined that the

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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.