

Introduced: 4/22/86
Referred: Resources

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 75

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

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FOURTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5

Relating to the amendment by Congress of

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the Alaska National Interest Lands

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Conservation Act as it relates to the

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timber industry.

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

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WHEREAS the timber industry in Alaska is a vital industry and a major

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contributor to the economy of the state; and

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WHEREAS the passage of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation

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Act in 1980 recognized the importance of the timber industry to the state;

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and

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WHEREAS the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act estab-

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lished a timber supply fund and also established a timber supply harvest

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level to ensure economic stability within the timber industry; and

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WHEREAS the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act was a

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compromise reached in 1980 between those advocating wilderness additions

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and those supporting a viable timber industry and a renewable resource; and

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WHEREAS the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act has set

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aside over 50 percent of Southeastern Alaska land as wilderness and road-

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less areas; and

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WHEREAS the total acreage of the Tongass National Forest is 16,706,895

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acres and, of that acreage, only 1,749,700 acres are scheduled for harvest

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over the rotation of 100 years and that constitutes only one-tenth of one

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percent of the acreage each year and only 10 percent of the acreage over

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the life of the rotation; and

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WHEREAS any attempt to open up the Alaska National Interest Lands

1 Conservation Act and create additional wilderness areas, decrease the
2 mandated timber harvest level, or eliminate the authorized timber supply
3 fund would cause substantial damage to the economy of Southeastern Alaska;
4 and

5 WHEREAS Congress is about to begin hearings to consider the revision
6 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act and special interest
7 groups are requesting significant changes in the Act that may cause sub-
8 stantial damage to the existing timber industry and, consequently, to many
9 communities in Southeastern Alaska;

10 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the Alaska
11 National Interest Lands Conservation Act not be amended because this action
12 would void the delicate compromise on legislation passed in 1980; and be it

13 FURTHER RESOLVED that the timber harvest level of 4,500,000,000 board
14 feet per decade mandated by the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation
15 Act be maintained; and be it

16 FURTHER RESOLVED that the timber supply fund as enacted in the Alaska
17 National Interest Lands Conservation Act be maintained and adequately
18 funded; and be it

19 FURTHER RESOLVED that the land base made available under the Alaska
20 National Interest Lands Conservation Act for renewable timber harvest not
21 be reduced and that no further additions to wilderness areas be enacted;
22 and be it

23 FURTHER RESOLVED that before Congress begins further consideration of
24 the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, it hold hearings
25 within the State of Alaska.

26 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to and to the Honorable Ted
27 Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable
28 Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Con-
29 gress.