

Introduced: 3/25/86
Referred: Resources

1 IN THE SENATE

BY THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 48

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IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

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FOURTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5

Relating to the continued operation of

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the Institute of Northern Forestry at

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Fairbanks and the Forestry Survey Group

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in Anchorage.

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

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WHEREAS Alaska, with its almost 120,000,000 acres of forest land, has

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the potential to become a world class timber producer, with 20 percent of

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the forests in the United States; and

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WHEREAS with the exception of the forest land in Southeastern Alaska,

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the largest part of the forest land in the state is essentially undevel-

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oped; and

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WHEREAS the U.S. Forest Service maintains the only capability for

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research on forest fires, insects and disease, watershed, forest genetics,

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silviculture, inventory, and reforestation in all of Northern Alaska and

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its capability is vital to the future of forestry development and protec-

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tion; and

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WHEREAS the United States is presently a net importer of forest prod-

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ucts but is expected to become a net exporter of forest products in the

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21st Century; and

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WHEREAS Alaska could have an influential role in the development of

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Alaska's forests, an event that may be significant for the nation's balance

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of trade and thus of benefit to the United States as well as to the state;

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and

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WHEREAS the lack of sound management plans backed by adequate research

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information regarding the unique forests of the Northern latitudes,

1 including the newly established Tanana Valley State Forest and the forested
2 land of regional and village corporations that were established under the
3 Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, hampers the development of forests in
4 the national interest;

5 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature strongly supports the
6 continuation of the Forest Research Station at Fairbanks and the Anchorage
7 Forest Survey Group at funding levels that permit the continuation of field
8 work; and be it

9 FURTHER RESOLVED that Congress is urged to appropriate funds adequate
10 to continue the described operations of the U.S. Forest Service, to direct
11 the U.S. Forest Service to reverse its decision to close the Institute of
12 Northern Forestry, and to direct the U.S. Forest Service to restore the
13 capacity to the Anchorage Forest Survey Group's capacity to continue needed
14 field work in forest inventory.

15 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Ronald
16 Reagan, President of the United States; the Honorable Richard E. Lyng,
17 Secretary of Agriculture; R. Max Peterson, Chief of the U.S. Forest Ser-
18 vice; the Honorable George Bush, Vice-President of the United States and
19 President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr., Speaker
20 of the U.S. House of Representatives; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and
21 the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young,
22 U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.