

Introduced: 4/24/86
Referred: Resources

1 IN THE SENATE BY THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE
2 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 51
3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
4 FOURTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION
5 Relating to the Alaska National Interest
6 Lands Conservation Act and endorsing
7 support for the timber industry.
8 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:
9 WHEREAS the timber industry is a vital industry in the state and a
10 major contributor to the economy; and
11 WHEREAS the passage of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation
12 Act (ANILCA) in 1980 recognized the importance of the timber industry to
13 the state; and
14 WHEREAS ANILCA provided for a timber supply fund and also authorized a
15 timber supply harvest level in order to ensure economic stability within
16 the timber industry; and
17 WHEREAS ANILCA was a compromise reached in 1980 between those advocat-
18 ing wilderness additions and those supporting a viable timber industry and
19 a renewable resource; and
20 WHEREAS ANILCA has already mandated and set aside over 50 percent of
21 Southeastern Alaska land as wilderness and roadless areas; and
22 WHEREAS the total acreage of the Tongass National Forest is 16,706,895
23 acres excluding land in other ownership and, of that total, only 1,749,700
24 acres are scheduled for harvest over the rotation of 100 years which con-
25 stitutes only one-tenth of one percent a year or 10 percent over the life
26 of the rotation; and
27 WHEREAS any attempt to change ANILCA to create additional wilderness
28 areas, and decrease the mandated timber harvest level or eliminate the
29 authorized timber supply fund would cause severe detrimental damage to the

1 economy of Southeastern Alaska; and

2 WHEREAS the Congress is about to begin hearings to consider ANILCA and
3 special interest groups are requesting significant changes in ANILCA that
4 may cause severe economic damage to the existing timber industry and,
5 consequently, many communities in Southeastern Alaska;

6 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that ANILCA not be
7 reopened or amended as this action would have the effect of voiding the
8 delicate compromise and subsequent legislation passed in 1980; and be it

9 FURTHER RESOLVED that the timber harvest level of 4.5 billion board
10 feet per decade as mandated by ANILCA be maintained; and be it

11 FURTHER RESOLVED that the timber supply fund as enacted as part of
12 ANILCA be maintained and adequately funded; and be it

13 FURTHER RESOLVED that the land base made available under ANILCA for
14 renewable timber harvest not be reduced and no further additions to wilder-
15 ness areas be enacted; and be it

16 FURTHER RESOLVED that before the Congress begins any further consider-
17 ation of ANILCA that hearings be held within the State of Alaska.

18 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Ronald
19 Reagan, President of the United States; to the Honorable George Bush,
20 Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; to
21 the Honorable Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill, Jr., Speaker of the U.S. House of
22 Representatives; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank
23 Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative,
24 members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.