

Introduced: 3/30/87  
Referred: Resources

5-0899A

1 IN THE SENATE

BY JONES, STURGULEWSKI, COGHILL,  
ABOOD, FISCHER, FAIKS, KERTTULA

2

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 35

3

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5

Relating to maintaining timber industry

6

employment, funding of U.S. Forest

7

Service operations, and the allowable

8

timber harvest level in Southeast Alaska

9

and amendment of sections 703 and 705 of

10

the Alaska National Interest Lands

11

Conservation Act.

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

13 WHEREAS in 1947 the Congress passed the Tongass Timber Act, which  
14 authorized timber sales in the Tongass National Forest under the U. S.  
15 Forest Service's policy of creating a timber industry in the Tongass Na-  
16 tional Forest in order to provide year-round employment in Southeast  
17 Alaska; and

18 WHEREAS, when the Congress passed the Alaska Native Claims Settlement  
19 Act (P.L. 92-203) in 1971, the Congress sought to prevent a loss of jobs in  
20 the timber industry of Southeast Alaska by providing compensating timber  
21 for the timber selected by Native corporations; and

22 WHEREAS, when the Congress passed the National Forest Management Act  
23 (P.L. 94-588) in 1976, the Congress reaffirmed its commitment to maintain-  
24 ing timber industry jobs in the Tongass National Forest, notwithstanding  
25 the environmental requirements of the Act; and

26 WHEREAS, when the Congress established wilderness areas in the Tongass  
27 National Forest in sec. 703 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conserva-  
28 tion Act (ANILCA) (P.L. 96-487), the clear intent of the Congress in sec.  
29 705 was to maintain employment in the timber industry that depends on

1 national forest timber at the same level as before the passage of the Act;  
2 and

3 WHEREAS employment in the dependent timber industry is not at the same  
4 level as before the passage of ANILCA because more than 1,000 jobs have  
5 been lost in the timber industry since that time; and

6 WHEREAS the Congress has established in sec. 705 of ANILCA a funding  
7 mechanism to ensure that employment in the dependent timber industry is  
8 maintained; and

9 WHEREAS the U.S. Forest Service has failed to spend the funds that it  
10 had requested and that were authorized by the Congress for preroding in  
11 the Tongass National Forest; and

12 WHEREAS the Alaska State Legislature believes that the U.S. Forest  
13 Service should honor the commitments made to timber industry-related em-  
14 ployment in the Tongass National Forest by Congress;

15 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests  
16 that the U.S. Forest Service immediately provide the full amount of preroad  
17 funding and the full amount of intensive management funding promised under  
18 sec. 705 of ANILCA; and be it

19 FURTHER RESOLVED that the timber base established by ANILCA and the  
20 Tongass Land Management Plan for renewable timber harvests be maintained  
21 along with the timber harvest level of 4,500,000,000 board feet per decade  
22 as mandated by sec. 705 of ANILCA; and be it

23 FURTHER RESOLVED that if the Congress decides to amend sec. 705 of  
24 ANILCA, it review each of the other components of the Tongass compromise so  
25 that the issue may be presented in a comprehensive manner; and be it

26 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully re-  
27 quests that the Congress hold hearings in the state before it makes amend-  
28 ments to secs. 703 or 705 of ANILCA.

29 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Richard E.

1 Lyng, Secretary of Agriculture; the Honorable Donald P. Hodel, Secretary of  
2 the Interior; the Honorable Patrick J. Leahy, Chairman of the Senate Com-  
3 mittee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry; the Honorable J. Bennett  
4 Johnston, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources;  
5 the Honorable E de la Garza, Chairman of the House Committee on Agricul-  
6 ture; the Honorable Morris K. Udall, Chairman of the House Committee on  
7 Interior and Insular Affairs; Dale Robertson, Chief of the U.S. Forest  
8 Service; William P. Horn, Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and  
9 Parks, Department of the Interior; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the  
10 Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S.  
11 Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.