

Offered: 5/17/87
Referred: Rules

5-0899B

Original sponsors: Jones, Sturgulewski,
Coghill, et al.

1 IN THE SENATE BY THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE
2 HOUSE CS FOR SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 35 (Resources)
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; and
25 WHEREAS, the Congress established wilderness areas in the Tongass
26 National Forest in sec. 703 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conserva-
27 tion Act (ANILCA) (P.L. 96-487); and
28 WHEREAS the timber industry is an important industry and a major
29 contributor to the economy of the state; and

1 WHEREAS tourism, commercial fishing, and recreation industries are
2 also vital to Southeast Alaska and are major contributors to the state's
3 and region's economy; and

4 WHEREAS the passage of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation
5 Act (ANILCA) recognized the importance of these industries to the state;
6 and

7 WHEREAS Section 705 of ANILCA was a compromise between those advocat-
8 ing wilderness additions and those supporting a viable timber industry; and

9 WHEREAS Section 705 provided for a timber supply fund to make timber
10 harvest in marginally economic stands economically feasible; and

11 WHEREAS Section 705 has not been properly implemented, particularly as
12 a result of the Forest Service's failure to allocate Section 705 funds in
13 accordance with representations it made to Congress at the time of ANILCA's
14 passage;

15 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that Section 705 of
16 ANILCA not be amended in a manner that would upset the compromise crafted
17 by Congress balancing values within the Tongass National Forest; and be it

18 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Tongass Timber Supply Fund be adequately
19 funded and spent in accordance with the manner and for the items that the
20 Forest Service advised Congress it would spend the funds; and be it

21 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Forest Service manage the Tongass National
22 Forest under sec. 705 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation
23 Act in a manner consistent with other federal laws and with state laws
24 guiding the management of the National Forest and in a manner that will
25 balance timber jobs and development with each other dependent use of the
26 forest, including commercial fishing, tourism, recreation, and subsistence,
27 each of which depends on the protection of the fish and wildlife habitat;
28 and be it

29 FURTHER RESOLVED that if the Congress decides to amend sec. 705 of

1 ANILCA, it review each of the other components of the Tongass compromise so
2 that the issue may be presented in a comprehensive manner; and be it

3 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully re-
4 quests that committees of the Congress hold hearings in Southeast Alaska
5 before amendments to secs. 703 or 705 of ANILCA are adopted.

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