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BY JONES, ELIASON, ZHAROFF AND FISCHER

1 IN THE SENATE

2 SPONSOR SUBSTITUTE FOR SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 63

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 Opposing the closure of the Stikine Area
6 Regional Supervisor's Office of the
7 United States Forest Service.

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

9 WHEREAS the U.S. Forest Service is a major employer in the Petersburg
10 area; and

11 WHEREAS the Forest Service is considering closing the Stikine Area
12 Regional Supervisor's Office as a cost cutting measure; and

13 WHEREAS the 49 jobs at the Stikine Area Regional Supervisor's Office
14 affect the economy of Petersburg; and

15 WHEREAS U.S. Forest Service employees holding the jobs have families
16 who also work, attend school, and contribute to the economy; and

17 WHEREAS those families also own homes, have bank loans, and use vari-
18 ous service industries in Petersburg; and

19 WHEREAS the loss of those families would result in a major change in
20 school enrollment projections; and

21 WHEREAS the drop in school enrollment would also mean a drop in state
22 school funding affecting service to all Petersburg school children, teach-
23 ers, and administrators; and

24 WHEREAS this proposal is disruptive to both U.S. Forest Service em-
25 ployees and the City of Petersburg; and

26 WHEREAS the presence of the Stikine Area Regional Supervisor's Office
27 and its employees in Petersburg allows for local participation and better
28 management of the Tongass National Forest;

29 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature supports all efforts

1 by municipalities such as Petersburg, to maintain and improve its economic
2 climate and to ensure that the state has a viable economy for the future;
3 and be it
4 FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature opposes any action to close the
5 Stikine Area Regional Supervisor's Office in Petersburg because it would
6 severely damage the Petersburg economy.
7 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Richard E.
8 Lyng, Secretary of Agriculture, to F. Dale Robertson, Chief of the U.S.
9 Forest Service; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank
10 Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative,
11 members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.