

Introduced: 2/2/87
Referred: Resources

5-0538A

1 IN THE SENATE

BY JONES, FAIKS AND UEHLING

2 SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 7

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Relating to the timber industry in
6 Southeast Alaska.

7 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE:

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

13 WHEREAS, when the Congress passed the Alaska Native Claims Settlement
14 Act (P.L. 92-203) in 1971, the Congress sought to maintain jobs in the
15 timber industry of Southeast Alaska; and

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

20 WHEREAS, when the Congress established wilderness areas in the Tongass
21 National Forest in sec. 703 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conserva-
22 tion Act (ANILCA) (P.L. 96-487) the clear intent of the Congress in sec.
23 705 was to maintain timber industry-related employment at the same level as
24 before the passage of the Act; and

25 WHEREAS timber industry-related employment is not at the same level as
26 before the passage of ANILCA because more than 1,000 jobs have been lost in
27 the timber industry since that time; and

28 WHEREAS the Congress has established in sec. 705 of ANILCA how much
29 funding is necessary to ensure that timber industry-related employment is

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1 maintained; and

2 WHEREAS the U.S. Forest Service has failed to spend the funds that it
3 had requested and that were authorized by the Congress for preroad ing in
4 the Tongass National Forest; and

5 WHEREAS the Alaska Senate believes that either the U.S. Forest Service
6 should honor the commitments made to timber industry-related employment in
7 the Tongass National Forest by Congress or the wilderness designations made
8 under sec. 703 of ANILCA should be repealed so that all interests involved
9 in the ANILCA compromise on the use of the Tongass National Forest are
10 treated equitably;

11 BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Senate respectfully requests the U.S.
12 Forest Service to immediately provide the full amount of preroad funding
13 and the full amount of intensive management funding promised under sec. 705
14 of ANILCA; and be it

15 FURTHER RESOLVED that the timber base established by ANILCA and the
16 Tongass Land Management Plan for renewable timber harvests should not be
17 reduced and that further additions to wilderness areas in the Tongass
18 National Forest should not be made; and be it

19 FURTHER RESOLVED that the timber harvest level of 4,500,000,000 board
20 feet per decade mandated by sec. 705 of ANILCA should be maintained; and be
21 it

22 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska Senate respectfully requests the
23 Congress to hold hearings in the state before it begins further consid-
24 eration of ANILCA.

25 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable R. Max
26 Peterson, Chief of the U.S. Forest Service; and to the Honorable Ted
27 Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable
28 Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Con-
29 gress.

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