

Offered: 2/27/87
Referred: Rules

5-0538B

Original sponsors: Jones, Faiks
and Uehling

1 IN THE SENATE BY THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE
2 CS FOR SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 7 (Resources)
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 prevent a loss of jobs in
15 the then existing timber industry of Southeast Alaska by providing com-
16 pensating timber for the timber selected by Native corporations; and

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

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

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

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

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

7 WHEREAS the Alaska Senate believes that the U.S. Forest Service should
8 honor the commitments made to timber industry-related employment in the
9 Tongass National Forest by Congress;

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

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

18 FURTHER RESOLVED that the timber supply of 4,500,000,000 board feet
19 per decade mandated by sec. 705 of ANILCA be maintained; and be it

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

23 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska Senate respectfully requests that the
24 Congress hold hearings in the state before it makes any amendments to secs.
25 703 or 705 of ANILCA.

26 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to Dale Robertson, Chief of
27 the U.S. Forest Service; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable
28 Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Repre-
29 sentative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.