

HJR

24

# FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA  
1997 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
BILL VERSION: HJR 24  
PUBLISH DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

Revision Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: Relating to challenging the environmental and economic integrity of Alaska timber as Christmas...  
Sponsor: Representative Williams  
Requestor: House Resources

Department Affected: Legislative Affairs Agency  
BRU: All  
Component: All

COMPONENT SERIAL NO:

Expenditures/Revenues: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 98	FY 99	FY 00	FY 01	FY 02	FY 03
PERSONAL SERVICES	0	0	0	0	0	0
TRAVEL	0	0	0	0	0	0
CONTRACTUAL	0	0	0	0	0	0
SUPPLIES	0	0	0	0	0	0
EQUIPMENT	0	0	0	0	0	0
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

CAPITAL	0	0	0	0	0	0
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REVENUE FUND SOURCE	0	0	0	0	0	0
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FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND	0	0	0	0	0	0
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER FUND SOURCE						
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME	0	0	0	0	0	0
PART-TIME	0	0	0	0	0	0
TEMPORARY	0	0	0	0	0	0

Estimate of current year impact: \_\_\_\_\_

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Zero fiscal impact.

Prepared By: Karla Schofield, Deputy Director *Karla Schofield* Phone: 465-3852  
Division: Administrative Services Date: 3/6/97

Approved By: Pamela A. Varni, Executive Director *Pamela A. Varni*  
Agency: Legislative Affairs Agency Date: 3/6/97

Distribution (by preparer): Leg. Finance, Legislative Sponsor, Requestor, OMB, Gov., & Impacted Agency(ies).

# Alaska State Legislature

## Committees:

Transportation, Chairman  
Resources  
Economic Development  
Rules



During Session  
State Capitol  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182  
(907) 465-3424  
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In Ketchikan  
352 Front Street  
Ketchikan, AK 99901  
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Representative William K. Williams  
**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Representative Bill Hudson, Co-Chair  
House Resources Committee

**FROM:** Representative Bill Williams, Chair *Bill*  
House Transportation Committee

**DATE:** February 25, 1997

**RE:** Hearing request for HJR 24, opposing harvest of Tongass  
trees for Capitol Christmas trees

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Would you please schedule, at your earliest convenience, House Joint Resolution 24, relating to challenging the environmental and economic integrity of Alaska timber as Christmas decor for the United States Capitol.

HJR 24 points out the hypocrisy of harvesting trees from the Tongass for Christmas celebrations while harvesting trees for the economic benefit of Southeast Alaskan's is being severely restricted.

If you have any questions, please contact my aide, Peter Ecklund at X5141.

Thank you

# Alaska State Legislature

Committees  
Transportation, Chairman  
Resources  
Economic Development  
Rules



Representative William K. Williams

During Session  
State Capitol  
Juneau, AK 99801-7182  
Phone (907) 465-3424  
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In Ketchikan  
352 Front Street  
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## Sponsor Statement

### House Joint Resolution 24

House Joint Resolution 24 was introduced in response to the Clinton Administration's proposal to harvest trees from the Tongass National Forest for the purpose of decorating the nation's capital during the 1998 Christmas season.

Under normal circumstances this proposal would be met with open arms and be considered an honor by the people who live and work in the Forest. However, these are not normal circumstances. Federal policy decisions, the inability of the Forest Service to get timber volume out, and litigation has led to mill closures, widespread job loss and economic depression, not to mention the associated negative socio-economic impacts.

I consider the proposal a direct insult to the people of Southeast Alaska. These are people who are prohibited from making an honest living in the woods, yet are asked to harvest Christmas trees, send them back east AND fund the project. At a time when we need every single dollar we have to try and rebuild our economy it is incredible that the Federal Government would ask us to fund such a project.

We need to send a strong message to Washington that says we do not agree with their actions regarding the Tongass National Forest. The human cost of 'saving the Tongass' has been too high. We do not agree with their taking of trees for decorative purposes while the jobless citizens of Southeast Alaska try to scrape enough money together to save their homes and dreams. I urge you to support House Joint Resolution 24.

10: Jerry  
5/20/99

A M E N D M E N T

OFFERED IN THE HOUSE

BY REPRESENTATIVE WILLIAMS

TO: HJR 24

1 Page 2, lines 4 -6:

2 Delete all material and insert:

3 "WHEREAS even with the recent signing of a 3 year contract  
4 to supply wood to Southeast Alaska's 2 largest remaining sawmills,  
5 consistent supply remains a concern for their continued  
6 existence; and

7 WHEREAS over 60 percent of Southeast Alaska's timber-  
8 related jobs have been eliminated since 1990; and"

Jerry - please work up a  
CS Resources final for HJR24.

Many Thanks -

Marlene x6820

John Conley  
Member Ketchikan Gateway Borough Assembly  
P O Box 8462 Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

State of Alaska  
House Resources Committee  
Testimony in Support of HJR 24

As you consider Mr. William's resolution please remember the amount of available timber lands we as a State have lost through federal intervention.

In 1971 460,000 acres were lost, 1980 1,640,000 acres were lost, in 1990 689,000 acres were lost, 1991 1,480,000 acres were lost and the TLMP preferred alternative proposes a further reduction of 500,000 acres

Since the last great compromise, the Tongass Timber Reform Act of 1990 we have lost over 2000 timber jobs in Southeast Alaska. And on March 24 1997 Ketchikan will lose another 450 jobs.

You as Legislators must be concerned about the federal intrusion upon our States right to the use of all of Alaska's natural resources for jobs and community stability.

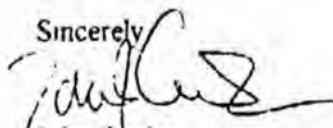
The request by the President of the United states is offensive to the people of South East Alaska who's lives have been severely impacted by the Clinton administration policy towards timber harvest on the Tongass National Forest

One must ask, are the Tongass trees to be displayed as trophies for the economic kill to timber communities in South East Alaska? If so then 60 is not enough 2500 would be a good start A tree for every displaced timber worker

What's next our fish to feast upon. Our minerals to be fashioned as environmental ornaments. Or our mighty glaciers to chill the Presidents refreshments.

Please represent us by sending a clear message that in Alaska our natural resources are to be used in a responsible manner To create jobs and stable economies Not environmental trophies to be displayed to the world

Sincerely



John Conley



File Code: 1600

Date: January 28, 1997

Gail Phillips, Speaker of the House  
Mail Stop 3100  
State Capitolard Street  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

RECEIVED

JAN 31 1997

Ans'd.....

Dear Speaker Phillips:

Southeast Alaska has been given an honor and an opportunity - and a challenge. We would like to invite you to share in it.

The Tongass National Forest has been chosen to provide the Capitol Holiday Tree in 1998. This marks the first time the state of Alaska has been chosen for this honor. This tree will be a gift to all the people of America from the people of Southeast Alaska. Decked with thousands of ornaments made by children and adults from across Southeast, this tree will stand proudly in front of the nation's Capitol, to be enjoyed by Washington, DC, residents and visitors alike.

Along with the honor of providing the Capitol Tree comes the opportunity to generate national publicity about the people and resources of Southeast Alaska. Perhaps even more important, it is an opportunity for the diverse people living and working throughout the Tongass to come together on a project. Everyone can participate. Not only will we provide a 60-65' tree to shine over the Capitol lawn, we will also provide up to 60 smaller trees to decorate administrative and congressional offices. Thousands of ornaments will also be made and sent with the trees.

The honor and the opportunity are also the challenge. Never before has the Capitol Tree had so far to travel. Never have the logistics of coordination and transportation been so unique. Never have the participating communities been so physically isolated one from another as in Southeast Alaska.

This is not solely a Forest Service project. Because this tree and everything that goes with it are indeed from all the people of Southeast Alaska and because your organization represents people from one end of Southeast to the other, your participation will contribute greatly to the success of this effort. We'd like you to be part of a core group to lead the project. The Forest Service is available to provide technical support and coordination with the people in Washington who will receive and put up the tree and with people who have helped with the trees in the past. The core group will bring their organizational skills, imagination, and local and corporate contacts together to make this a great moment for Alaska.

We ask that you or your representative work with a core group to provide overall project management - from developing a theme and logo, to involving individual communities in ornament making and fund raising, to working out the best way to get the trees and ornaments (with the accompanying publicity and good will) across the country. As with any project of this scope, the core group won't do all the work. Their job is to organize it, keep it on track, and make sure Alaska is proud when the Speaker of the House throws the switch to light up the Alaska tree in December 1998.



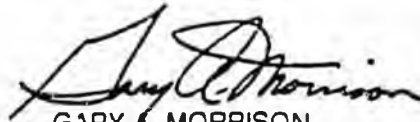
Merrily Jones of our Petersburg office has agreed to take the lead for the Forest Service and will be our representative to this core group. She'll help get the core group up and running. Once the group is organized, Merrily will share information from project coordinators of the last several years and also do her share of the group work.

Please contact Merrily at 907-772-5801 with your response by February 10. That will give the core group time to get started before the summer rush makes it difficult to put the project in motion.

We look forward to working with you to bring the spirit of Southeast Alaska to the people of America.

Sincerely,

  
ABIGAIL R. KIMBELL  
Forest Supervisor  
Stikine Area

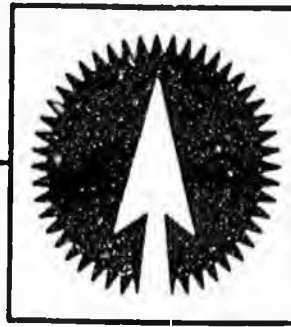
  
GARY A. MORRISON  
Forest Supervisor  
Chatham Area

  
BRADLEY E. POWELL  
Forest Supervisor  
Ketchikan Area

*Letter sent to:*

Association of Alaska School Boards  
Boy Scouts of America  
Girl Scouts, Tongass Council  
Society of American Foresters  
Southeast Alaska Tourism Council  
Southeast Conference  
Southeast Mayors' Association  
Governor, State of Alaska  
President of the Senate, State of Alaska  
Speaker of the House, State of Alaska  
Tlingit-Haida Central Council





## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 20, 1997  
Contact: Jack Phelps, Executive Director

### ALASKA FOREST ASSOCIATION PROTESTS CLINTON CHOICE OF TONGASS CHRISTMAS TREES

Calling President Clinton's decision to request Christmas trees from the Tongass to decorate the White House in 1998 "insulting beyond belief," Alaska Forest Association Executive Director Jack Phelps today joined Senator Robin Taylor and Representative Bill Williams in protesting the Clinton announcement. At a press conference this morning at the state Capitol, Taylor and Williams unveiled twin resolutions to be introduced Friday officially protesting the "administrative taking" of some 60 ancient trees from Alaska's Tongass National Forest to decorate Washington D.C. during the 1998 Christmas celebration.

"The White House has now added insult to injury to the timber workers, their families and the timber dependent communities of Southeast Alaska," Phelps said. "This is the administration whose policies have severely crippled the economy of our region on the premise that the Tongass forest must be overprotected. This is the administration that operates on the philosophy that crickets and rats are more important than people. This is the administration that strong-armed its own agency last year into reversing a perfectly good defense in a lawsuit brought by the extremist anti-logging crowd and kept nearly 300 million feet of environmentally approved timber away from mills that were desperately short of wood. And now they want us to cut some of our trees at our expense and ship them to Washington at our expense so that they can sing and dance in their Fantasyland world on the Potomac while Alaskans go hungry? This is insulting beyond belief. Senator Taylor and Representative Williams are doing the right thing, and I applaud their efforts."

