



# Alaska State Legislature

1975

Source:

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## SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 17

Relating to the possible closure of the Ketchikan Pulp Company.

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

WHEREAS Ketchikan Pulp Company has announced that it may have to cease operations because of environmental expenditures of up to \$34,000,000 being required by the 1972 amendments to the Federal Water Pollution Control Act; and

WHEREAS the expenditures required, which would be to provide for secondary effluent treatment, approach the initial investment required of the company to begin operations in 1954 -- approximately \$50,000,000; and

WHEREAS Ketchikan Pulp Company has a modern, innovative, chemical recovery process which is a celebrated model for the industry and leads, today, in environmental cleanliness; and

WHEREAS the requirements of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act are to be applied in the same manner to sprawling urban areas as to isolated, single industry communities; and

WHEREAS viable alternatives must be derived, as even if the required expenditures were to be made, they would be approximately two to four times that of the company's dissolving pulp competition, and would result in disproportionate costs, thus providing no base for competitive profit and hence would mean assured economic failure, while at the same time offering little, if any, improvement in water quality; and

WHEREAS Ketchikan Pulp serves as the economic base of the community, contributing prosperity, stability and peace of mind

to the area's people; and

WHEREAS closure of this viable industry would bring instantaneous unemployment to more than a thousand people and adversely affect directly another twelve thousand, as well as mean a giant loss of revenue to the state and to the federal government; and

WHEREAS an extended ocean outfall for the mill's effluent has been proposed as an alternative to secondary effluent treatment and persons with expertise in the field are of the opinion such an alternative would be adequate, although not conforming to the letter of the law as it is now written;

BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the United States Congress is urgently requested to immediately re-examine and reevaluate the 1972 amendments to the Federal Water Pollution Control Act with the objective of establishing standards appropriate for differing locations and circumstances existing throughout the country in order to make the law equitable and yet assure high water quality controls; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the National Commission on Water Quality which is investigating the impact of the 1972 amendments take into consideration the existing inequitable and inappropriate requirements of the amendments as applied across the board indiscriminately.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Gerald R. Ford, President of the United States; the Honorable Nelson A. Rockefeller, Vice-President of the United States and Chairman, National Commission on Water Quality; the Honorable Russell E. Train, Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency; the Honorable Edmund S. Muskie, U. S. Senator, Chairman, Air and Water Pollution Subcommittee, Senate Committee on Public Works; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Mike Gravel, U. S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U. S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.