

STATE OF ALASKA
SENATE

1987

Source

CSSR 7(R1s)

Senate
Resolve No.

6



Relating to the timber industry in Southeast Alaska.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE:

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

WHEREAS, when the Congress passed the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (P.L. 92-203) in 1971, the Congress sought to prevent a loss of jobs in the then existing timber industry of Southeast Alaska by providing compensating timber for the timber selected by Native corporations; and

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

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

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

WHEREAS the Congress has established in sec. 705 of ANILCA a

funding mechanism to ensure that employment in the dependent timber industry is maintained; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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